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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 17 | Humidity 60% Partly sunny Sensex 84,572 | Nifty 25,910 | Gold 1,24,851 | Silver 1,59,366 | Dollar 88.61 | Euro 102.58 | GBP 116.12

TAKE A BREAK

As state govt releases 2026 holiday list, we explain how you can stretch weekday holidays into mini vacations

PAGE 3

QUACK HACK

Stern notice: Unqualified doctors face jail of up to 7 years, fines of up to ₹5 lakh and clinics employing them can be shut down

PAGE 7

North Commissioner's plan to penalise site owners if their property is found littered seen as harsh; civic activists demand mechanism to ensure smooth door-to-door garbage collection on daily basis

LOST THE PLOT?

Most vacant sites found to be under litigation, with owners untraceable

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KAUSHIK JN

Property owners are distraught at a new plan that the civic agency may be looking at. While on an early-morning inspection along Yelahanka Airport Road, Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar noted that many of the empty plots were turning into dumping grounds. Sunil Kumar has instructed BNCC engineers to clear the garbage dumped on vacant sites and also impose a penalty on property owners and recover the cleaning costs through property tax. Noble intentions these may be, but civic activists and citizens are not assuaged.

The BNCC Commissioner also noted that most vacant plots at Pulakeshinagar, Byatarayanapura, and Sarvagna Nagar divisions are under litigation and their owners are untraceable. He directed the officials to clean such sites and add the cleanup expenses to the property tax records that can be recovered from the owners once the disputes are resolved.

Social activists are up in arms because site owners cannot be entirely blamed for the garbage accumulation, they say.

"It is the responsibility of the GBA to ensure the garbage is being collected from the houses on a daily basis so that garbage doesn't get dumped on empty sites. The GBA must install video surveillance cameras in the city to track the people who throw garbage at the public places and private empty sites and penalise them. At the same time, if the GBA is not collecting garbage daily, the GBA officers concerned must also be penalised

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Expecting new site owners to construct homes immediately after purchase is unrealistic. The process of acquiring land, completing documentation, arranging finances, and obtaining plan approvals takes time

—Vinod Jacob, civic activist

No way to sugar-coat this truth

Over 10% of state's population now living with diabetes; children too afflicted

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A startling new health report has revealed that 10.6% of Karnataka's population is now living with diabetes, signalling a rapidly escalating crisis cutting across all age groups. According to data from the Indian Diabetes Research Institute, the disease is no longer confined to older adults — it is rising sharply among children and young adults as well.

Friday marked World Diabetes Day, and experts warn that Karnataka's numbers are climbing at an alarming rate. Particularly shocking is the rise in diabetes among children, which is increasing by 2% every year. Doctors attribute this surge to sedentary lifestyles, Western dietary habits, junk-food dependence, lack of exercise, and excessive screen time.

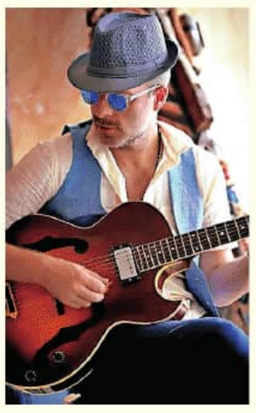
A recent health review shows widespread metabolic risks across the population, with diabetics at 10.6%, pre-diabetics at 13.7%, high blood pressure at 31.5%, abdominal obesity at 35.4%, body-fat obesity at 26.9%, and elevated blood lipids at 17.1%, underscoring a growing lifestyle-driven health burden.

Doctors warn that diabetes is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 In the groove



John Shannon, the acclaimed jazz guitarist, composer, and co-founder of Con Alma Jazz Club, will be performing live. His music blends deep jazz traditions with spiritual exploration, creating a sound that feels both contemporary and timeless. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: November 15, 9.30 pm**

02 House full of fun

Playtopia 2025 brings together children, parents, and communities under one vibrant roof, promising an unforgettable family weekend filled with creativity, connection, and community spirit. **Where: National College Grounds, Basavanagudi; When: November 15 from 12 pm to 9 pm and November 16 from 8 am to 8 pm**

03 Joy unleashed

Rotary Bangalore, IT Corridor, is organising an annual family and pet engagement programme as a precursor to the Bengaluru Midnight Marathon. The pet-a-thon will include fun games for pets and families, and a pet adoption arena. **Where: Therpup Resort, Sarjapur; When: Nov 16, 11 am**

04 Soulful sustainability

Traya Utsav, a two-day festival celebrating conscious living, brings together over 110 sustainable brands and mindful experiences across fashion, wellness, food, home, and culture. Visitors can discover clean beauty, plant-based foods, handmade crafts, natural fabrics, art, and more, all in one vibrant, soulful space. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Exhibition Centre; When: Nov 15 and 16**

05 Timeless tales

Prabhat, The Temple of Art, an internationally renowned artistic institution, is presenting '18 Days' which revolves around the Kurukshetra war from The Mahabharatha. The dance musical aims at communicating the story of Kurukshetra in the most convincing fashion, which can cater to audiences across the globe irrespective of demographic characteristics. **Where: Sri Kumaran Children's Academy, Doddakallasandra; When: November 15, 4 pm and 7 pm**

BMRCL trims Red Line station lengths

Following Union Ministry's expenditure concerns, BMRCL to shorten underground station length on Red Line linking Sarjapur and Hebbal by 40 metres, saving nearly ₹3,000 cr

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FILE PHOTO

To reduce construction costs on the Hebbal–Sarjapur Red Line, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will shorten the length of its underground stations by 40 metres—from 210 metres to 170 metres. According to officials, this design change is projected to save around Rs 3,000 crore. The 135-metre platform length, adequate for six-coach trains, will remain unchanged. The cost reduction will be achieved by reconfiguring operational and service areas within the smaller station layout.

Cost-cutting necessity

The Karnataka Cabinet had approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Hebbal–Sarjapur Line in December last year, estimating the total project cost at Rs 28,405 crore, or about Rs 776 crore per km—the highest for any metro phase in the city. However, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) raised concerns over the steep estimate and asked BMRCL to re-evaluate the cost structure. The tunnelling cost alone had been pegged at Rs 300 crore per km, nearly double the ministry's benchmark of Rs 159 crore per km. The revised DPR now places this cost at Rs 210 crore per km.

Corridor details

The Red Line spans 36.59 km, linking Sarjapur in the southeast to Hebbal in the north, and will feature 28 stations, including 11 underground. Of the total length, 14.45 km will be underground, while 22.14 km will be elevated. The elevated portion will include double-decker viaducts. Key underground stations will include Veterinary College, Mehkri Circle, Palace Guttahalli, Chalukya Circle, KR Circle, Wilson Garden, NIMHANS, Dairy Circle, St John's, and CPWD Quarters.

Land acquisition and DPR preparations

Sources said that the estimated land acquisition cost stands at Rs 8,080 crore, with Rs 1,224 crore earmarked for private land purchases. Around 161.65 acres of land will be required for the project, affecting roughly 836 properties along the alignment—from Hebbal to Sarjapur—including 314 residential, 37 commercial, and 63 industrial structures. A total of 55.69 acres of private land has been identified near Sarjapur Circle for the proposed metro depot. To prepare for tunnelling works, BMRCL has floated a tender for geotechnical studies worth Rs 6.86 crore. Contractors will be required to complete the study within 150 days of receiving the work order.

Yellow Line services hit by morning snag

Commuters on Namma Metro's Yellow Line faced delays on Wednesday morning after a technical snag disrupted services, adding to the usual wait time of over 15 minutes during peak hours. The issue, which affected train movement for a brief period, was resolved at 8.47 am, according to BMRCL officials. Regular services resumed soon after, bringing relief to passengers who were left waiting on platforms during the disruption.

Jazz rhythms sweep B'luru off its feet

Bengaluru is witnessing its first Bengaluru Jazz Fest, a multi-venue celebration of jazz and fusion music featuring both local and international artists. The event highlights the city's growing jazz culture and its deep connection to Indo-Western collaborations.

Festival curator and musician Jagadeesh MR said the idea behind the festival was to showcase Bengaluru's evolving relationship with jazz. He said that the festival aims to connect with the city's cultural footprint. "For decades, musicians here have blended Carnatic, classical, and contemporary jazz. This festival brings that heritage to the forefront while connecting it with new global sounds," he said.

Jagadeesh described jazz as a universal language that transcends borders and differences.

"Jazz opens up your senses — it connects people beyond nationality and background," he said.

He added that the response has been beyond expectations. "All the venues are overbooked, which shows how the city's listeners are opening up to jazz," Jagadeesh said. He opined that there's a growing curiosity among young audiences who are discovering jazz through digital platforms. The Bengaluru Jazz Fest will run till November 22. With performances by the Bosch Big Band from Stuttgart, MoonArra, and Vidushi Sukanya Ramagopal's Stree Taal Tarang, the festival spans venues like Goethe-Institut, Alliance Française, and St Joseph's University Auditorium. Entry is free through RSVP. **— BMB**

Environmental icon Thimmakka passes away at 114

Renowned environmentalist succumbs to prolonged health issues, leaving behind her legacy of ecological conservation inspiring generations

Padma Shri awardee Salumarada Thimmakka passed away in Bengaluru on Friday at the age of 114, following health complications since her November 2 hospital admission. According to sources, her health had been fragile for the past few years. She was admitted to Apollo Speciality Hospital, Jayanagar, after complaints of weakness and loss of appetite, and had a history of respiratory issues and heart problems. Her previous hospitalisations occurred in October 2023, with further complications in 2024 due to age-related illness and respiratory ailments. Despite continuous medical care, her condition deteriorated, leading to her demise yesterday.

Salumarada Thimmakka was celebrated as one of India's most revered grassroots conservationists, earning wide respect for her lifelong devotion to environmental stewardship.

She was best known for planting and nurturing over 8,000 trees along highways, including 385 banyan trees, symbolising decades of relentless afforestation and green activism. She became a national icon for her commitment to ecological conservation, with her work inspiring generations beyond Karnataka.

Major awards and recognition

Her accolades began with the National Citizen's Award in 1995, honouring her extraordinary public service and dedication to planting trees. In 1997, she received the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award, recognising her outstanding contributions to environmental conservation.

Thimmakka's impactful work continued to garner appreciation, leading to the Nadoja Award by Hampi University in 2010, which

acknowledged her lifetime achievement in promoting ecological balance and sustainability. Her crowning national honour came in 2019 when she was conferred the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards. In addition to these major awards, Thimmakka received multiple other state and national honours, including the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award and several recognitions for bravery, women empowerment, and green initiatives.

Notably, her impact crossed international boundaries. A US-based environmental organisation called Thimmakka's Resources for Environmental Education, headquartered in California, was named to honour her legacy. Her work inspired generations, and despite receiving widespread acclaim, she lived modestly, embodying humility and devotion throughout her life. Political leaders, environmentalists, and citizens across India have mourned her passing. Her legacy as 'Mother of Trees' is immortal, and her pioneering work will continue to inspire ecological efforts nationwide.

Her mortal remains will be placed at Rabindra Kalakshetra on November 15, from 7.30 am to 10.30 am, for public homage. The last rites of Thimmakka will be performed at the premises of Kalagram in Jnanabharathi on Saturday at 12 am. **— BMB**

Mark your calendar: 2026 is year that gives us a break

Year packed with weekday festivals enabling multiple extended weekends without using up too many leaves, creating excitement among employees planning early vacations

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2026 promises travel, celebrations, and rest—if you plan your leaves early

As per state govt's just-released 2026 holiday list, the year begins on a high note with Sankranthi and gets even better by mid-year and the streak continues through to Christmas

Bengalureans are already feeling a wave of positivity with the Karnataka government releasing the 2026 holiday list — a calendar that promises not just festive joy but plenty of chances for long, soul-soothing breaks. With a little planning and one or two well-timed leave applications, employees can stretch several weekday holidays into refreshing mini vacations.

The 2026 begins on a high note with Sankranti on Thursday, January 15. Add Friday as leave, and the week naturally blends into Saturday and Sunday, creating a four-day holiday — a perfect chance to visit family or explore nearby destinations. Just a week later, Republic Day on Monday, January 26 ensures a ready-made three-day weekend without requiring any extra leave at all.

March is even better. Ugadi on Thursday, March 19 opens the door for another four-day holiday by taking just the Friday off. And the real holiday jackpot arrives at the end of the month — Mahaveer Jayanti on Tuesday, March 31, followed by Good Friday on April 3. With Friday, Saturday, Sunday already part of the Easter weekend and Monday preceding it, employees who plan can take leave on Wednesday and Thursday to unlock a full nine-day stretch. As one HR consultant noted, "This is the kind of break people usually wait months for — and it's available with just two days of leave."

April continues the streak with Dr B R Ambedkar Jayanti on Tuesday, April 14, and Basava Jayanti on April 20, creating opportunities to bridge weekends with a strategically placed leave day. Similarly, May Day on Friday, May 1, and the last day of Moharram on Friday, June 26 promise relaxed long weekends. "Employees rarely get a calendar that's this cooperative," said a Bengaluru-based travel planner. "This is the year to tick off bucket-list destinations."

The festive season is even kinder. Ganesha Chaturthi on Monday, September 14, and Gandhi Jayanti on Friday, October 2 offer effortless long weekends. October gets better with Ayudha Pooja on October 20 and Vijayadashami on October 21, giving mid-week options to blend into extended family celebrations. As winter sets in, Deepavali's Naraka Chaturdashi on Monday, November 8, and Balipadyami on Tuesday, November 10 practically invite an entire week of festivities with just a couple of leave slips.

Rounding off the year, Kanakadasa Jayanti on Friday, November 17, and Christmas on Friday, December 25 ensure the holiday spirit stays alive through the year's final stretch. Employees and families are already buzzing with plans. "It feels like 2026 is designed for work-life balance," shared a Bengaluru tech professional. "A few thoughtful leave requests will give me more quality time with loved ones than any year in recent memory." With the state's holiday calendar packed with opportunities, 2026 is shaping up to be a year of travel, celebration, and well-deserved rest — provided one books those leave days before everyone else does.

CRIME FILES

Fake trading platform drains banker's savings

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Despite working daily with accounts, transactions, and fraud alerts, even a bank employee could not escape the tactics of cybercriminals. A 24-year-old bank staffer from Basaveshwara Nagar lost ₹5,90,850 after scammers lured him with promises of high returns through a fake online trading and task-based earning platform. According to the complaint filed by the Kamalanagara resident, the incident began on October 1, 2025, when he received a Telegram message from a user identified as Tanvi Sharma (@IMDb_F13302). The message offered a part-time job promising ₹3,000 per day for simple tasks such as rating movies. Believing the offer to be legitimate, he clicked the link provided and was directed to what appeared to be an online trading site called "Cboe Global Market."

He was initially assigned six tasks worth ₹50 each and received a trial payment of ₹300, which convinced him that the platform was genuine. On October 2, he transferred ₹5,000 as his first investment and received ₹7,500 in return, further strengthening his trust. The fraudsters then encouraged him to invest larger amounts, assuring him of higher profits in exchange for bigger deposits.

Between October 1 and October 31, the victim transferred a total of ₹5,90,850 from multiple bank accounts into various unknown accounts. The funds were routed through accounts in at least five banks as well as via IMPS and UPI transfers. Once the money was deposited, the scammers refused to release the promised returns and repeatedly demanded additional payments under the pretext of "withdrawal fees." Realising he had been cheated, the complainant approached the police and registered a case under Section 66(D) of the IT Act and Sections 318(4) and 319(2) of the Indian Penal Code. The first report has been submitted to the court and senior officers for further investigation. Police have urged the public to stay alert to unsolicited job offers and online investment schemes that promise unrealistic returns.

Geo-marked inspections aim to fix RTO mess

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The Transport Department is finally turning to technology to curb rampant irregularities in Regional Transport Offices, where thousands of vehicles — many unfit for road use — have been receiving fitness certificates without undergoing mandatory inspections. After years of complaints and stalled proposals, the department has now approved a statewide rollout of geo-fencing, a digital boundary system designed to ensure that a vehicle is physically present at the RTO inspection yard before an FC is issued.

According to officials, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has given his approval and directed the department to fast-track implementation. The decision comes amid rising concerns over accidents involving vehicles that were cleared without checks, including school buses and commercial transport fleets. In several RTOs, inspectors have allegedly been issuing FCs for cash, sometimes clearing 200–300 vehicles a day without physical verification.

Hundreds of vehicles cleared daily without checks

Once integrated into the Parivahan platform, geo-fencing will act as a digital lock, like systems used in the pilgrimage subsidy model, where photographs must be uploaded from designated locations. Inspectors will not be able to approve a vehicle unless it is within the geo-marked zone.

The system was briefly piloted at the Devanahalli RTO earlier and showed promising results. With renewed urgency and ministerial push, officials say the technology will bring transparency, reduce corruption, and significantly improve road safety across the state.

257 trees in the way of suburban rail project

Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited has submitted a proposal to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) seeking permission to remove 257 trees located between Ambedkar Nagar Metro Station and Muddenahalli Line Cross.

The request pertains to Corridor 4 of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP).

The project includes building Foot Over Bridges and developing nine stations: Jakkur, RK Hegde, Thanisandra, Hennur, Horamavu, Channasandra, Kaggadasapura, Doddanekundi, and Marathahalli. **–BMB**

Bug your pardon? Snacks with a crunch

From cockroach pakoras to queen-ant burgers, the Krishi Mela at GKVK turned into an unexpected showcase of insect-based foods that left visitors both intrigued and astonished. Prepared by professors and students from the entomology department, the menu featured silkworm soup and manchurian, silkworm barbecue and kebabs, mealworm cakes and fried rice, locust kebabs, beetle masala, and more—each dish accompanied by explanations of its nutritional value and environmental advantages. The exhibition, titled Insect Wonders, aimed to educate farmers, students, researchers, eco-enthusiasts, and the general public about the immense diversity of insects and their scientific importance. Thousands of preserved and live specimens from across India and abroad were displayed, supported by visuals illustrating insect evolution, life cycles, pollinators, pests, disease-carrying species, forensic insects, social insects, and rare giant varieties. University vice-chancellor S V Suresh said the exhibit helped demystify the insect world and encouraged visitors to appreciate biodiversity more closely. **–BMB**

Five-year wait ends

The Hosakerehalli flyover, which remained incomplete for half a decade, is now open to the public. Motorists reported smoother traffic flow on the previously congested junction, though some minor works remain.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Anger grows as authorities asphalt narrow 30-feet road

Motorists express frustration over rushed asphalting on narrow 30-foot stretch despite repeated assurances widening work and encroachment removal would be prioritised

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Residents of Kithaganur and thousands of motorists were shocked when authorities suddenly took up asphalting work on the PWD Road that connects Kithaganur to the Outer Ring Road. While residents are not opposed to the road being asphalted, they are strongly against the authorities going ahead without completing the formalities required to acquire the necessary land. According to the original plan, the road should have a width of 80 feet, but at present, most stretches of the 2-km stretch measure only about 30 feet.

"The authorities and elected representatives had assured us that the road would be widened to 80 feet, but its width continues to remain just 30 feet in most parts. Some landowners have already parted with their land, yet the authorities have not officially taken it over. If the road is asphalted without ensuring the planned width of 80 feet, the whole effort will fail to serve its actual purpose," said Nagesh Gowda, a former member of the Kithaganur Gram Panchayat.

Sharing the same concern, Muniraju M, a resident, said the asphalting work had been pending for a long time due to delays in acquiring the required land. "I was informed that the authorities have now decided to asphalt the road at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore. While this is welcome, it would only be useful if they also clear the encroachments and take over the land needed for widening," Muniraju said.

Criticising the authorities for beginning asphalting without completing a proper survey, Manish Mahapatra, another resident, said that people—especially apartment dwellers—were not informed in advance. "The authorities seem to be in a hurry to asphalt the road, but they have shown very little interest in shifting the electrical poles that obstruct smooth vehicle movement. They have also failed to ensure the road reaches the promised 80-ft width," he said.

Demanding that the authorities clear encroachments without fear or favour, another resident blamed elected representatives and officials for hesitating to demolish structures that were already identified for road widening. "They are worried about protecting their vote banks. They do not want to remove buildings that fall within the widening limits. What is the use of asphalting the road if it is not widened first?" he asked. The Kithaganur Gram Panchayat president was unavailable for comments.

Asphalting in progress without clearing buildings that were acquired for widening the road

> **"It will be useful if the authorities clear encroachments and take over the required land for widening the road**
> – Muniraju M a resident

Corporation pushes ORR firms to boost civic works

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has urged companies along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to enhance civic infrastructure through stronger CSR participation. In a meeting with the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar encouraged firms to adopt stretches of the ORR for maintenance, beautification, tree planting, wall art, and pedestrian improvements. Officials also sought CSR support for upgrading major junctions, improving footpaths, and strengthening waste-management systems, including proposed waste-processing units by KPMG and partner NGOs. The Corporation further invited companies to support lake-linked parks, public amenities, and monthly coordination for sustained progress. — BMB

Rising fly-ash prices derail highway timeline

The long-delayed Bengaluru–Chennai Expressway has suffered another setback as a fly-ash supply dispute slows progress along key stretches on the Tamil Nadu–Andhra Pradesh border, pushing the project far beyond its planned 2023 deadline. While Karnataka's section is operational with tolls being collected, work in AP and TN continues to lag, with the fly-ash crisis emerging as the primary obstacle. The worst-hit portion is the 25 km Arakkonam–Kancheepuram stretch, where construction has stalled due to a legal dispute between NHAI and the contractor over escalating fly-ash costs. Though NHAI won the initial case, the matter is under appeal, freezing nearly 14 km of crucial pending expressway work overall today. — BMB

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Accident zone

Basaveshwarnagar

A large pothole on 8th Main Road near Basaveshwara Nagar Police Station continues to cause accidents, endangering daily commuters

Commuter nuisance

Vasantha Nagar

Persistent pile of trash on 6th Cross near the Vasanth Nagar mosque has remained unattended for over a month, troubling commuters.

Blocked roadway

Neotown Road

Neotown Road in Electronic City Phase 1 is in poor condition, with taxis blocking both sides and severely narrowing movement.

Realty boom along Kanakapura Road

BM Property
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With Kanakapura road included in the State Government's Greater Bengaluru project, there has been a surge in demand for residential and layout properties along Kanakapura Road and its surrounding areas. Known as one of Bengaluru's most cosmopolitan zones, the Kanakapura Road stretch has emerged as a preferred destination for property investors seeking both prestige and value. The ongoing development projects and modern infrastructure have further strengthened its appeal among homebuyers and investors alike.

Profitable Investment Hub

A realtor said, "Affordable housing layouts that suit middle-class budgets are readily available in and around Kanakapura Road, drawing investors even from other parts of the city. Once seen as a suburban zone, the area has now evolved into a sophisticated urban corridor. Its excellent educational institutions and numerous spiritual centers have added to its livability quotient, making it one of the most sought-after residential belts."

Satellite Town Ring Road to Boost Connectivity

The upcoming Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), being developed by the National Highways Authority of India, has become a boon for the region. This project will link Kanakapura Road to Ramanagara via Anekal, significantly improving regional connectivity. The existing four-lane Kanakapura Road already provides seamless access to localities, and with the STRR expansion, traffic congestion is expected to ease and travel to the city will become smoother. Though the STRR work is currently progressing in phases, it is expected to be fully operational in the near future, further enhancing the area's growth prospects.

Preferred Zone for Property Buyers Nationwide

"People from across India are choosing Kanakapura Road for its blend of convenience and amenities, transforming it into a cosmopolitan hub with diverse corporate cultures. Surrounding localities such as Harohalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bilekahalli, Konanakunte, Kaggalipura, Talaghattapura, Anjanapura, and Electronic City—once semi-rural—are now preferred by nature lovers seeking eco-friendly living spaces", said a realtor.

Excellent Connectivity and Infrastructure Growth

Despite being located away from the city's core, Kanakapura Road enjoys strong infrastructure development including metro connectivity, the STRR, the Namma Metro extension, and inclusion in the Greater Bengaluru South district plans. These initiatives have made it a favorite among real estate investors.

Complementary Development Projects Spur Growth

"Over the past few years, several mega infrastructure projects have taken shape along Kanakapura Road, contributing to rapid urban development. The road connects key neighborhoods like Jayanagar, Basavanagudi, and Banashankari, and passes through BDA layouts such as JP Nagar (4th and 7th Phases), Kumaraswamy Layout, and parts of Anjanapura Township. These areas, being part of the NICE Road network, are expected to witness even greater infrastructure upgrades", added a realtor.

Emerging Cosmopolitan Lifestyle Hub

Experts said that prestigious IT firms, corporate establishments, large malls, and entertainment centers have turned Kanakapura Road into a vibrant urban hub attracting residents from different states and even abroad. With diverse restaurants, textile outlets, wellness centers, party halls, beauty studios, and shopping complexes flourishing here, the region's property values have risen sharply, cementing Kanakapura Road's position as one of Bengaluru's most promising real estate destinations. **—Prakash VL**

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Probe stalls as Karnataka loses more elephants to fatal electrocution

Despite ministerial orders and High Court directives, the Belagavi electrocution deaths expose persistent negligence and repeated failures in forest vigilance

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Forest officials face criticism as inquiries stall, even as elephant herds in Belagavi and Uttara Kannada remain vulnerable to illegal power fencing and neglect

Ten days after two elephants were electrocuted in Belagavi, the mandated inquiry remains undone, deepening concerns as conservationists highlight years of preventable deaths caused by illegal fences and lax oversight

More than 10 days have passed since two elephants were electrocuted in Belagavi due to an illegal power fence at a farm. While Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre was quick to order a probe into the incident to pinpoint any dereliction of duty by Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) officials, the investigation is yet to begin.

"I have instructed the Chief Conservator of Forests to conduct a detailed inquiry and determine if our officials were at fault and if there was dereliction of duty. Orders have been given to file the report as soon as possible. Action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation," said Prabhash Chandra Ray, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden.

On November 2, two elephants died after they came in contact with an electrified fence on farmland near Khanapur in Belagavi. According to the Forest Department, the elephants had wandered from Dandeli forest in search of food. Following the incident, the Forest Minister instructed officials to submit a report within five days. His office also stated that prima facie, the deaths appeared to be linked to dereliction of duty by field staff.

Despite the urgency, the mandatory inquiry has not been initiated even as electrocution continues to remain one of the leading causes of unnatural elephant deaths in the state. Between January 2021 and now, Karnataka has lost 55 elephants to electrocution. Ten cases were recorded in 2021, nine in 2022, 14 in 2023, 13 in 2024, and nine more already in 2025.

This persistent trend comes despite a Karnataka High Court order issued in May directing the Forest Department to form area-wise investigating committees and map sagging power lines and illegal electrical fences across the state. The court had stressed that monitoring power infrastructure was essential to reducing preventable wildlife deaths.

Wildlife conservationists allege the recent Belagavi incident reflects clear negligence. "Nagargali forest range in Belagavi, where the incident took place, witnesses elephant movement every year as herds shift between Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Nagargali. The ACF and RFOs were not present at their headquarters when the incident occurred. They arrived only after being informed," said a conservationist. "KFD officials were fully aware of elephant movement in the area. Yet no action was taken to check illegal tapping of power lines or remove sagging lines."

North Karnataka's elephant population, estimated at just 80–90 individuals, is already isolated and vulnerable. Conservationists point out that the region has witnessed several unnatural deaths over the years. In 2015, an elephant died of electrocution near Nersa in Khanapur, and the same year a calf was killed by a speeding train near Nagargali. Another elephant was run over by a train near Golihalli in 2017. More recently, an elephant was electrocuted near Yellapur in Uttara Kannada in March 2024, followed by another death near Ambikanagar in Kali Tiger Reserve in June 2025.

"We are losing these elephants far too often due to official negligence. A precedent must be set with the latest incident to send a message that any failure leading to the death of elephants will not be ignored," the conservationist added.

Hope blooms with NGO's new initiative

For 47-year-old C B Suresh who comes from a humble background from Chapparadahalli, Taluk Piriyapatna, Mysore District. he was working as a gardener and always wished to contribute to his family's income and did not want to be solely dependent on his family's financial needs.

Though he could not study beyond Class 10, his career took a turning point in 2003–04 when he learnt about the training opportunities at the Association of People with Disability (APD) in Bengaluru. After meeting the APD team, he showed a keen interest in horticulture. Recognising his potential, APD encouraged him and offered him an opportunity. Today, Suresh works as a Horticulture Training Specialist with APD in Bengaluru.

Over the years, he has mobilised more than 300 candidates and trained and placed nearly 80% of them—individuals like him who were seeking meaningful employment. "I feel proud that I can support my family through this income and spend on my children's education," he said.

Horticulture program creates steady rural income for trainees

APD recently organised Bloom and Plant Carnival 1.0 at its N S Hema Horticulture Training Centre in Kyalasanahalli, where every plant showcased has been nurtured by persons with disabilities trained in horticulture. Open until November 16, the carnival features herbal, medicinal, ornamental and air-purifying plants, turning trainees' skills into a source of livelihood.

Sandeep Pujari, Manager of the centre, said the program offers hands-on training in nursery management, composting, landscaping, organic manure preparation and customer interaction. **–BMB**

KASSIA pushes for tax, GST, credit reforms to revive MSMEs

Industry body urges major tax relief, uniform GST interest, easier credit norms and grievance tribunals to help struggling small enterprises reinvest and grow

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to raise the threshold under Section 14AB of the Income Tax Act to Rs 10 crore as most small and medium enterprises are unable to achieve a profit margin of 6 percent on turnover and reduce the tax for partnership firms from 30 percent to 25 percent to promote reinvestment and growth.

The association made the appeal during the pre-Budget meeting held on November 12, where it submitted a detailed memorandum seeking tax reforms and structural changes to ease compliance and improve credit access for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). KASSIA argued that existing thresholds and tax rates do not reflect ground realities faced by small businesses struggling with low margins, rising input costs and limited access to affordable credit.

Among its key recommendations, the association proposed the introduction of a monthly returns and quarterly payments (MRQP) system under GST, reduction of GST on labour charges to 5 percent, and permission to claim input tax credit (ITC) on factory construction materials. It also urged the establishment of district-level GST grievance tribunals to help small enterprises address compliance issues more efficiently.

KASSIA seeks tribunals, smoother refunds and stronger credit ratings to enhace financial stability for local small enterprisesfacing challenges

In its pre-Budget memorandum, KASSIA highlights liquidity stress, costly credit and uneven GST rules hurting micro and small firms, demanding lower rates, better financing, uniform interest, and stronger institutional support for MSME growth

The memorandum, submitted by KASSIA General Secretary SM Hussain, further stressed the need for uniform interest rates of 6 percent on both GST refunds and dues. Presently, the department pays 6 percent interest on refunds but charges 18 percent when enterprises owe dues. KASSIA termed this disparity inequitable and said it places an excessive burden on small units already facing liquidity constraints.

In the banking and finance sector, the association sought timely and adequate credit support for MSMEs, lower lending rates capped at 2 percent above the Repo Rate, and a waiver on renewal charges and pre-closure penalties. It also suggested that the government bear the CGTMSE guarantee fees to encourage collateral-free lending and improve credit flow to smaller units.

To strengthen the credit ecosystem, KASSIA proposed the creation of a national MSME credit rating mechanism titled "Sashakth", designed to evaluate enterprises based on operational performance rather than traditional balance-sheet indicators. The association said such a system would provide a more realistic credit assessment framework, helping smaller firms access loans on better terms.

KASSIA also highlighted the role of micro and small industries as informal skill training centres that provide employment and hands-on learning opportunities across educational backgrounds. Frequent technological upgrades, it added, require significant reinvestment, making timely credit and transparent lending decisions crucial. Banks must guve written loan-rejection reasons to ensure accountability and help entrepreneurs refine applications for better financing options.

Bike-taxi legality still under review

The Karnataka High Court has continued hearing the appeals filed by Rapido, Uber and Ola, challenging a single-judge order that halted bike-taxi operations in the State until dedicated guidelines are framed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

During the proceedings, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty reiterated the State's position that motorcycles cannot be treated as transport vehicles under the existing statutory framework. He said that the definition of a motorcycle under the Act does not envisage its use for carrying passengers or commercial hire.

The court, however, questioned the consistency of the State's stance, pointing to the earlier Electric Vehicle (EV) policy that expressly permitted e-bike taxis. Asking how such a policy was issued if motorcycles were inherently ineligible for transport use, the bench pressed the State to explain its position. The AG responded that the EV policy had since been withdrawn, and that only a special exemption had existed during that period. Outside that window, he insisted, a permit is mandatory if any motorcycle is to be treated as a transport vehicle.

The State also relied on Section 67(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, arguing that the statute grants the government overriding authority to frame transport schemes, modify permits and decide whether certain classes of vehicles can be used commercially.

The bench, however, observed that the companies were not opposing a permit system but were contesting what they termed a complete prohibition.

IN HIGH COURT

Turning to aggregator licensing, the AG referred to Section 93 of the Act, stating that platforms must obtain aggregator licences and that states may either adopt central guidelines or frame their own. The bench remarked that if no state-specific rules exist, the central guidelines would automatically apply.

After completing the State's submissions, the division bench scheduled the matter for further hearing on November 24. **–BMB**

State asked for disability rights report

The Karnataka High Court on Friday directed the state government to submit a thorough account of its compliance with key provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The report must be filed within six weeks.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha issued notice to the government while hearing a petition alleging large-scale non-implementation of several mandatory provisions of the Act, including Sections 17, 24, 34, 35, 37, and 88.

The petition highlights that the Act obligates the government to take wide-ranging measures from inclusive education and social welfare schemes to employment reservations and creation of a dedicated state disability fund. These include periodic educational surveys, establishment of teacher-training centres, implementation of 4 per cent reservation in State employment, incentives for private employers to hire persons with disabilities, and ensuring 5 per cent reservation in land allotment and poverty alleviation programmes.

The plea further points out that the State is duty-bound to frame schemes promoting independent living, strengthen vocational training infrastructure, and ensure accessibility across educational institutions.

Among the specific directions sought are: setting up more special schools and training institutes, ensuring that teachers working with children with disabilities are registered under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, and expanding vocational training centres. It also urges the court to enhance the State disability pension to Rs 10,000 or an amount deemed appropriate.

The bench, while issuing notice to the government, emphasised the need for a complete and transparent status report. The matter has been listed for further hearing on February 4, 2026. **–BMB**

No more playing doctor, says Karnataka govt

Circular outlines strict action, including imprisonment and heavy fines, imposed on unqualified doctors; state will show no tolerance toward quackery, says official

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The Karnataka Health Department has issued a stern circular warning of severe legal consequences for fake doctors and medical establishments employing them, declaring that imprisonment of up to seven years and fines as high as Rs 5 lakh await violators. The department has directed district officials to initiate criminal proceedings under various state and central laws and to submit regular reports on enforcement progress. The crackdown comes amid mounting concerns over unqualified practitioners endangering public health, especially in smaller towns and rural areas. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has reportedly instructed authorities to intensify inspections across districts and ensure swift prosecution of offenders.

Tough action on fake practitioners

Under the Karnataka Ayurvedic, Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani and Yoga Practitioners' Registration and Medical Practitioners' Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1961, anyone practicing medicine without proper registration can be prosecuted. First-time offenders face fines up to Rs 25,000, while repeat offenders can face imprisonment of up to one year and fines up to Rs 2.5 lakh. Subsequent convictions may attract jail terms up to three years and fines up to Rs 5 lakh. The department has reactivated a special district-level task force — comprising the Deputy Commissioner, senior police officers, AYUSH officials, and government-nominated representatives — to identify, inspect, and prosecute fake practitioners. Monthly progress reports on action taken must be sent to the state government.

Health Department's crackdown comes amid mounting concerns over unqualified medical practitioners endangering public health

Fines imposed on private medical institutions for violating KPMEA rules

The Bengaluru Urban District Administration and the Registration and Grievance Redressal Authority have imposed fines totalling Rs 4 lakh on private medical institutions found violating the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act. A total of 57 cases were reviewed, covering hospitals, clinics, and rehabilitation centres across the district. Fines ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 were levied on various health establishments. Additionally, one individual, Suma, was fined Rs 10,000 for illegally practising medicine without a registered institution. FIRs have been ordered against Public Health Care in Madanayakanahalli and NDR Hospital in Yelahanka. One case has been referred to the Karnataka Medical Council, eight cases closed, nine scheduled for the next hearing, and 20 cases remain pending.

Private clinics also under the scanner

Medical establishments employing fake or unqualified doctors will face strict penalties under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act, 2007. Running an unregistered clinic can result in imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

In addition, such establishments are liable for an immediate closure order and penalties up to Rs 50,000. Employing unqualified staff invites further prosecution with imprisonment of up to three years, cancellation of registration, and fines up to Rs 1 lakh. Persistent violators risk suspension or permanent cancellation of licences, said the circular, adding that Health Officers and Registration and Grievance Redressal Authorities have been directed to take immediate punitive action against erring hospitals and clinics.

Fake doctors in Karnataka face jail up to 7 years, fines up to ₹5 lakh

Environmental penalties for violators

Hospitals and clinics failing to register under the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016, will also face prosecution under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Such violations can attract imprisonment up to five years and fines up to Rs 1 lakh, with an additional fine of Rs 5,000 per day for continued non-compliance. In cases of prolonged violation exceeding one year after conviction, imprisonment may extend to seven years. District-level monitoring committees, led by Deputy Commissioners, will ensure that enforcement measures are carried out effectively and that defaulters are penalised without delay.

Department's firm warning

A senior official from the Health Department said the state will show zero tolerance toward quackery and unqualified medical practice. "Those who play with people's health will face the full force of the law. We are empowering our teams to act swiftly and decisively," an official stated.

B'luru governance law to be amended

The Cabinet has approved a proposal to amend the Greater Bengaluru Authority Act, 2024, adding the Chief Secretary and senior officials from the Urban Development and Finance Departments as new members of the GBA. The amendment will also revise Section 9 to clarify the appointment of MLAs and MLCs to the authority, and establish an executive committee headed by either the Chief Minister or the Bengaluru Development Minister, with the Additional Chief Secretary of Urban Development included as a new member. The government has decided to table this amendment bill in the upcoming winter session in Belagavi. **–BMB**

Mercury drops as winter chill sets in

With rainfall tapering off across Karnataka, a noticeable cold wave has begun sweeping the state. After over seven months of extended rains — with light showers still possible in some areas over the next month — maximum and minimum temperatures have dipped by 2–3°C in the past week. Northern districts such as Bidar, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Vijayapura, Haveri, Gadag, Koppal and Raichur have recorded sharp drops, with Vijayapura and Bidar touching lows of 12°C and daytime temperatures settling around 28°C. Coastal regions are seeing maximums of 30–31°C and minimums between 21–23°C, while southern interior districts hover around 28–29°C during the day and 17–18°C at night. Bengaluru, too, is cooler than usual, logging 18°C — about 1.5°C below normal — with Kempegowda International Airport dipping to 16.6°C. Morning mist and fog are expected for the next few days, with minimum temperatures likely to stay between 17–20°C. Meteorologists attribute the heightened chill to the year's unusually heavy rainfall, which has kept water levels high in lakes, rivers and reservoirs, enhancing cool conditions. **–BMB**

No school will close: Minister

Amid reports suggesting that nearly 7,000 government schools in Karnataka could be headed for closure due to the expansion of Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), the School Education Minister has categorically rejected such claims. He stated that no school will be shut down, adding that even if a school has just one student, it will continue to function.

The clarification comes after sources indicating that the government is preparing to open 700 new KPS institutions next year, prompting speculation about widespread mergers or closures. However, the minister's strong denial has put a pause on these interpretations. **–BMB**

'GBA officials must be penalised if waste not collected'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for dereliction of their duty," said Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Convener, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum.

Vinod Jacob, a civic activist, said that the ongoing clean-up initiatives and black spot removal efforts that improve the city's public spaces are welcome. "However, it is unfair to hold landowners responsible when others illegally dump waste on their vacant sites. It is the duty of local health inspectors and marshals to monitor such areas and penalise those actually responsible for the dumping. Moreover, expecting new site owners to construct homes immediately after purchase is unrealistic. The process of acquiring land, completing documentation, arranging finances, and obtaining plan approvals naturally takes time. Owners should be given reasonable flexibility to complete these steps responsibly," he said.

Describing the BNCC Commissioner's directive as out of the blue, Alexander James, an environmentalist, said the city will remain clean if the authorities ensure everyday supervision and clean-up drives. "The footpaths are in pathetic condition in BNCC limits. Senior citizens find it tough to walk on footpaths. The authorities should inspect the condition of footpaths periodically. My suggestion is to educate the school children and the residents to keep the area and its footpaths clean," he said.

Emphasising on the need to collect garbage from door to door on a regular basis, VP Krishna, founder of KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation, said that he had submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Chief Minister and GBA Chief Commissioner on the need of collecting garbage from door to door in the morning and evening to ensure that all residents handover garbage to pourakarmikas.

Lifestyle changes called for

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

increasingly affecting children, a shift from earlier patterns when it was largely confined to adults in their 50s and 60s. Dr. Nagendra Kashyap, a paediatrician, said that schoolchildren and teenagers are now being diagnosed, mainly due to reduced physical activity, long hours on mobile phones, unhealthy diets, and sedentary routines, though genetics contribute in some cases.

What's fuelling the surge?

An endocrinologist said, "Hereditary predisposition, inactive lifestyles, excessive junk-food consumption, minimal exercise, heavy screen use, and high stress levels are accelerating the rise of diabetes across age groups." Experts urge a shift toward balanced diets, maintaining healthy body weight, prioritising wholesome foods, reducing mobile phone dependence, and encouraging consistent physical activity and sports participation to curb early metabolic disorders.

Specialists stress that diabetes prevention must be institutionalised through health targets in schools and workplaces, including regular weight checks and fitness benchmarks.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Varadarajulu Rajagopala Setty Kopparam, S/o, Rajagopal Setty, Residing At,5002, Dandu Road Cross, 2nd Cross, Kuppaswamy Mudaliar Layout, Desihslli, Bangarpet, KGF, Karnataka 563262. have changed my name to Varadharajulu Kopparam Rajagopal Setty for all purposes.

I B Babu S/O, James R/o # 197/5 Rose Garden Park Road Cox Town Jeevanahalli Fraser Town Post Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name to Jonathan.

I, B. A. Ghouse Peer, R/o. #493/2, Zakeera Manzil, 3rd Cross,Begur Rd,Bommana - halli, Bl-068, have changed my minor daughter's name from ALISHA GHOUSEPEER to SYEDA ALISHA GHOUSEPEER for all purposes

I Chandrakantha Varadarajulu Kopparam, W/o, Varadharajulu Kopparam Rajagopal Setty, Residing At, 5002, Dandu Road Cross, 2nd Cross, Kuppaswamy Mudaliar Layout, Desihalli, Bangarpet, KGF, Karnataka, 563162, have changed my name to Chandrakantha Kopparam Varadharajulu, for all purposes.

I, SOMSING RATHOD, S/o TOLU RATHOD R/o B-105, Jyothi Enclave, 1st 'A' Cross, Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru-93, do hereby give notice that I have changed my father's name to TOLARAM RATHOD for all official records, including my passport, effective from 3 Nov 2025. I hereby affirm that the new name will be used in all official and legal documents henceforth.

I Nazia Hussian W/o Vaseem Pasha R/o No 30 4th Cross MD Block Chamrajpet Bengaluru 560018 Have Changed my Name to Nazia Hussain for all purposes

I, Priyanka Rani D/o Ram Sroop R/o 3261,2nd Floor, 13th Cross Rd, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, B'lore-560038, have changed my name to Priyanka Verma.

I, Rahul Upadhya, S/o Vadiraj Upadhya, R/o 194/A, 3rd D Cross, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-79, change my daughter's name from Rishvi Upadhya (age 1) to Mahika Upadhya.

I, Jacquline Caroline Joseph, R/o No. 24/17, 8th Main, 3rd Cross, Venkatapura, Koramangala, Bangalore, have changed my name from Jacquline Caroline Joseph Nelson Joseph to Jacquline Caroline Joseph.

I Arnav Mahesh Venkataramaiah S/O, Mahesh Venkataramaiah R/o 1151, Temple Bells, 20th Main, 20th B Cross, A Block, Sahakarnagar, Bangalore - 560092. have changed my name to Arnav Mahesh.

I, Abdul Jabbar S/o Noor Mohammed R/o #532, 100 feet ring Road, Ilyas Nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Noor Abdul Jabbar.

I Husna Shahayda W/O, Faseem Pasha R/o 1 Floor 6th Main 16th Cross Lakkasandra Bangalore 560030 have changed my name to Husna Shaheda.

I, Rashmi Shivaprasad W/o B S Shivaprasad R/o #67/B,2nd Main 3rd Block,3rd Stage Basaveshawara Nagar B'lore-560079 have changed my name to Rashmi H R.

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Perils of wrong-way riding

Woman picks up fight with auto driver after collision, sparks 1-km traffic snarl

CRIME FILES

A woman riding against the flow of traffic triggered a collision and a nearly 1 km-long traffic jam on Baiyappanahalli overbridge connecting Swami Vivekananda metro station on Wednesday, after she allegedly refused to admit her fault and verbally abused an auto-rickshaw driver involved in the incident.

According to JB Nagar Traffic Police, the woman, an employee of a private firm, was riding on the wrong side of the road when she collided with an oncoming auto. Instead of resolving the matter, she allegedly began shouting at the auto driver. In the video that went viral on social media, a traffic constable is seen attempting to pacify both parties, but the altercation continued, leading to a prolonged traffic pile-up in the area.

Police said she has been fined for violating lane discipline, and a notice has been issued to her. Meanwhile, the auto driver has filed a complaint regarding the alleged verbal abuse at Baiyappanahalli Law and Order Police Station.

In viral video, traffic constable is seen attempting to pacify both parties, but altercation continues

1 held for 2-wheeler thefts

The Jnanabharathi Police have arrested a 21-year-old involved in a series of two-wheeler thefts across the city and recovered nine stolen vehicles worth around ₹5 lakh. The accused has been identified as Arbaaz, a car wheel alignment technician. The case began on October 21, when Srikanth Sanmukh (30) filed a complaint stating that his two wheeler, which he had parked inside his house gate around midnight on October 19, had been stolen. B

Radiologist booked for sexually harassing patient

A radiologist at a private scanning centre in Anekal has been booked for allegedly sexually harassing a woman during a routine medical scan.

According to the complaint filed at Anekal police station, the accused, identified as Jayakumar, allegedly touched the woman inappropriately and behaved in a sexually explicit manner while conducting the scan. When she confronted him, he reportedly threatened her and used abusive language to silence her.

The woman had visited the centre with her husband for an abdominal scan. Police said she managed to record portions of the incident on her mobile phone, which was later submitted as evidence.

Despite the FIR, Jayakumar has not yet been arrested. Sources said he was summoned for inquiry but allowed to leave after questioning.

The victim is currently undergoing treatment at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Bengaluru.

Hotel guard murdered; assailants flee with CCTV DVR

A 25-year-old hotel security guard was found murdered in a hotel located within the Bidadi police station limits on Thursday night. The assailants also escaped with the hotel's CCTV camera DVR. The deceased has been identified as Nishant T, a resident of Channapatna, who had been employed at the hotel along the Bengaluru–Mysuru Highway for the past three months.

According to police sources, at least two unidentified individuals entered the hotel premises around 11 pm while Nishant was asleep. They allegedly attacked him with lethal weapons, inflicting severe head injuries that proved fatal. After committing the crime, the attackers removed and fled with the CCTV DVR, which police suspect was taken to destroy evidence. The incident came to light early Friday morning when the security guard assigned to the morning shift arrived at the hotel and found Nishant lying dead.

Bizman attacked, robbed

A 45-year-old businessman was attacked and robbed on Thursday afternoon by a former worker who allegedly lured him into a fake land-inspection visit before attempting to kill him. According to the police, the accused, identified as Jayanth (23), had worked at the complainant's factory for just three days in June. On November 13 around 1.30 pm, he came to the factory and told the businessman that a BDA site was available for sale and asked him to accompany him to inspect the plot. The victim drove Jayanth to the BDA layout. After showing him two empty plots, the two were returning when Jayanth, seated in the rear seat of the car, suddenly lunged forward and tried to snatch the gold chain. When the victim resisted, Jayanth allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed him multiple times on the neck, face, shoulder and head.

Bleeding heavily, the victim managed to escape from the vehicle and ran onto the main road. —BMB

BIHARPOLLS

BJP, allies hail 'historic' win

The BJP and its allies hailed Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar's good governance and development work for the NDA's decisive win in the Bihar elections, while the Opposition questioned the Election Commission's role in the SIR and poll code violations by the ruling alliance for its drubbing.

The National Democratic Alliance was set to sweep the Bihar assembly polls, surging ahead in close to 200 out of 243 seats on Friday, with the BJP emerging as the single-largest party with nearly 95 per cent strike rate, reaffirming the popularity and campaign clout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi termed the NDA's landslide win as a victory of good governance, development and the spirit of public welfare and social justice.

In a series of posts on X, Modi also congratulated the BJP's alliance partners -- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, LJP-RV supremo Chirag Paswan, HAM leader Jitan Ram Manjhi and RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha.

The prime minister said the resounding public mandate will empower the NDA to serve the people and work with new resolve for Bihar. PTI

Ripples to be felt in K'taka: BJP

The opposition BJP in Karnataka on Friday predicted that the "power tussle" within the ruling Congress party is likely to intensify in the coming days.

According to BJP, with the Congress central leadership "weakened" by the Bihar poll debacle, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would emerge stronger.

This would make the issue of a potential CM change in the state more contentious.

Speculations about a possible change in leadership in the state have been circulating within political circles, particularly as the Congress government approaches the halfway mark of its five-year term in November, a period some are calling the "November revolution."

"If anyone in Congress is happy today and in a mood to celebrate, it is Siddaramaiah. He will be happy... With the Congress central leadership becoming weak following the Bihar results, Siddaramaiah will grow stronger," R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, said. BMB

INBRIEF

Silk museum at Mysuru

Karnataka, the country's largest silk-producing state, is set to add another significant milestone to its legacy as India's first Silk Museum comes up in Mysuru. Famous for its iconic silk sarees, the city will soon host a dedicated space that showcases the complete story of Indian silk — from the silkworm to the finished fabric — with a display of the craft's cultural, historical and technical evolution. The museum will be established on the 120-acre campus of the Central Silk Board (CSB), where officials have conducted study tours to leading silk museums in China and Italy. These visits helped gather insights into China's 2,000-year-old silk heritage and Italy's renowned high-quality silk traditions. Preparations are underway to curate exhibits, with traditional and heritage silk artifacts being collected from farmers and silk-producing states across India. CSB Director Dr. Manthramurthy said work will start in the upcoming financial year. BMB

SWR registers 23% revenue growth from special trains

South Western Railway recorded a sharp 23% rise in revenue from special train operations in FY 2025–26, earning ₹171.47 crore between April and October — up from ₹138.83 crore during the same period last year. The zone operated 355 special trains to meet heightened travel demand, carrying 19.55 lakh passengers with a booking rate of 114%, exceeding the available berth capacity and underscoring strong passenger uptake and efficient service deployment. SWR also bolstered regular services by adding 521 extra coaches during the seven-month period, creating 35,524 additional berths and facilitating travel for 24,530 passengers, generating ₹2.09 crore in supplementary revenue. The highest earnings from coach augmentation came during June and October, aligning with peak and festive travel seasons. BMB

United against GKVK flower market plan

A group of citizens, farmers' representatives, city-based environmentalists, along with students and alumni of Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK), have come together to raise their voice against the establishment of the international flower market on five acres of land inside the GKVK campus. The group gathered on Friday to start a campaign against the project proposed by the Karnataka Government.

The project involves the clearance of approximately five acres of green cover within the university's research area, and is expected to result in the felling of over 900 trees, including valuable species like cashew, mango, coconut, pomelo, jackfruit, mahogany, and silver oak.

Experts gathered on Friday warned that this move will destroy an important repository of horticultural biodiversity and have a lasting negative impact on academic research and local ecology.

"The GKVK campus is a living biodiversity laboratory and a green lung for the city. The trees here are part of long-term research projects," said a student representative. BMB

Police team achieves hat-trick at National competition

The Karnataka State Police scripted history by winning the National Joint Counter-IED Competition "Visfot Kavach IX" for the third consecutive time. The Internal Security Division's (ISD) Counter-IED Team, led by Col SM Balakrishna, secured the top honour at the event organised by the National Security Guard (NSG) in New Delhi.

The competition, held from November 10 to 15, 2025, saw participation from 28 teams representing States, Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces. Teams were tested on advanced bomb disposal techniques, IED fabrication and detection, equipment handling, scenario-based Counter-IED operations and K9 capabilities.

The Karnataka ISD team dominated the event, clinching first place in all 10 categories. BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

STEALTHY GREEN PREDATOR

Our reader shares a striking image of a green lynx spider perfectly blending into the lush foliage, patiently lying in wait to ambush its prey. Unlike web-spinning spiders, this agile hunter relies on stealth and a sudden pounce to secure its meal—capturing the raw precision and drama of nature's tiny predators.

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Urban lakes shortlisted for pioneering floating solar power pilot initiative

Karnataka approves green-energy initiative to install floating solar panels at Dodda Bommasandra and Rachenahalli lakes as climate-positive pilot

Bengaluru is set to take a major step toward green energy by harnessing its lakes to produce solar power. The Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority has approved a plan to install floating solar panels on Dodda Bommasandra Lake and Rachenahalli Lake in the city. The Small Irrigation Department has been exploring ways to turn Karnataka's 40,000 lakes into revenue-generating assets. In July 2024, it held discussions on the feasibility of installing floating solar power panels, and a preliminary study indicated that covering just 40 large lakes—each spread over 100 acres or more—could generate up to 2,500 megawatts of electricity. As part of this wider plan, Dodda Bommasandra Lake (124 acres) and Rachenahalli Lake (105 acres) have now been shortlisted in Bengaluru to launch the initiative.

Officials said the project will be jointly implemented by KREDL (Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited) and the BBMP's Climate Action Cell. They estimate that if solar panels are installed on 10% of the surface area of these two lakes, the generation potential would be close to 20 megawatts. However, the first phase will focus on producing 1 megawatt as a pilot, allowing authorities to study technical, financial and environmental considerations before expanding the model across the state. The broader goal is to increase renewable energy capacity while moving toward economic self-reliance through green technologies.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar confirmed the proposal and said the project remains at an early stage. "Floating solar panels will be installed at Dodda Bommasandra and Rachenahalli lakes to produce 1 MW of electricity. The project will be implemented with the support of KREDL. However, no financial grants have been allocated yet by the BBMP or the state government," he said.

City's first floating solar project targets 1 MW generation while reducing evaporation, supporting lake management needs, and showcasing urban sustainability model that could shape future renewable efforts across Karnataka

Beyond energy production, officials highlighted the environmental advantages of floating solar systems. Panels installed over water bodies reduce evaporation, help conserve water, and limit algae growth by blocking excessive sunlight. The electricity generated can be used to power lake aerators, maintenance infrastructure and street lights around the water bodies. Any surplus power may be supplied to distribution companies through the grid, creating a potential revenue stream for lake maintenance.

Officials said the initiative, though still nascent, is being seen as a significant step in Bengaluru's climate-action efforts. By transforming its lakes into clean-energy hubs, the city hopes to showcase a sustainable model of urban development that can be replicated across Karnataka and beyond. **— BMB**

With only 10% of lake surfaces utilised, authorities estimate significant solar output that can boost conservation efforts and support civic electricity demands

DID YOU KNOW?

Even if you fill your trusty reusable bottle with nothing but clear water, experts say you still need to wash it. Water bottles collect germs from your mouth each time you sip and from your hands when you handle the lid or straw. Their tiny, hard-to-reach crevices can quickly become breeding grounds for mold and bacteria if not cleaned regularly. "It seems like something mundane, but it is extremely important," said nurse practitioner Michele Knepper of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Unwashed bottles can lead to stomach aches, itchy throats, and even worsen allergies or asthma. Experts differ on ideal routines, but all agree: give your bottle a good clean. Whether metal, plastic, or glass, all bottles get germy—though plastic scratches more easily and can trap microbes. The simplest method is using warm, soapy water and a bottle brush to scrub every part, including straws and lids. Let it dry completely. For deeper cleaning, use a dishwasher if safe, or soak with a denture-cleaning tablet, vinegar, or baking soda. Many recommend daily washing and a deeper clean weekly. If that feels excessive, aim for at least every few days—and clean daily if you use sugary drinks. As hospitality expert Ivy Sun says, it's a small step that greatly helps your health. **— AP**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Claim that central govt pensioners won't get DA, Pay panel benefits is false

Claim: A viral WhatsApp message falsely claims that the Central Government has revoked all post-retirement benefits—including DA hikes, DR increases, and Pay Commission revisions—for all retired employees under the Finance Act, 2025, creating widespread panic among pensioners.
Fact: PIB Fact Check confirms the message is fake. No DA/DR or Pay Commission benefits have been withdrawn. Only Rule 37 of CCS (Pension) Rules was amended, affecting only absorbed PSU employees dismissed for misconduct, not regular central government pensioners.

Many pensioners are worried as a message is being circulated on WhatsApp claiming that the central government has scrapped post-retirement benefits such as Dearness Allowance (DA) hikes and Pay Commission revisions for retired employees under the Finance Act, 2025. However, this claim is fake, as confirmed by the PIB Fact Check team.

Another misleading thing about the message is that DA is given to government employees, while pensioners (retired employees) get dearness relief (DR).

The PIB Fact Check team on social media X (formerly known as Twitter) posted: "A message circulating on #WhatsApp claims that the Central Government has withdrawn post-retirement benefits like DA hikes and Pay Commission revisions for retired employees under the Finance Act 2025. The PIB Fact Check team confirms that this claim is fake."

No Change in Post-Retirement Benefits for Retired Govt Employees
FAKE
@PIBFactCheck /PIBFactCheck /PIBFactCheck t.me/PIB_FactCheck

Exposing the fake message, the PIB Fact Check team says: "The fact is Rule 37 of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021 has been amended to state that if an absorbed PSU employee is dismissed for misconduct, their retirement benefits will be forfeited. This is not applicable to all central government pensioners."

What is Dearness Allowance (DA)?

Dearness Allowance (DA) is a cost-of-living adjustment that assists central government employees in offsetting the effects of inflation. While employees get DA, pensioners get DR.

DR is declared twice a year, mostly in the months of March and September. So, in the months of January and February, DR on pension/family pension is calculated as per the DR rates available for the month of December of the previous year.

What is amended Rule 37 (29C) for PSU employees?

The amended Rule 37(29C) is as follows:

"... the dismissal or removal from service of the public sector undertaking of any employee after his absorption in such undertaking for any subsequent misconduct shall lead to the forfeiture of the retirement benefits for the service rendered under the Government also and in the event of his dismissal or removal or retrenchment, the decision of the undertaking shall be subject to review by the Ministry administratively concerned with the undertaking.

For the purpose of this Rule, the relevant provisions of Rule 7 and 8 read with Rule 41 and Rule 44(5)(a) & (b) would be analogous as is applicable to a government servant under these Rules."

— ET Online

Google offers major changes to satisfy EU ad-tech case

Will change, but won't break up

Google has offered to make major changes to its business practices to resolve a European Union antitrust case targeting its ad-tech business, but they don't include breaking up the company.

The compliance plan Google submitted to the European Commission — the 27-nation bloc's top antitrust enforcer — includes "immediate product changes" to end specific practices, the company said in a blog post.

"Our proposal fully addresses the EC's decision without a disruptive break-up that would harm the thousands of European publishers and advertisers who use Google tools to grow their business," the company said Friday.

Google also said it's appealing the commission's decision to slap the company with a 2.95 billion Euro (USD 3.4 billion) fine in September for breaching the bloc's competition rules by favouring its own digital advertising services.

It accused Google of abusing its dominance by favouring its own online display advertising technology services to the detriment of competitors, online advertisers and publishers. As part of the punishment, Google was also required to come up with proposals to end what the Commission called "self-preferencing practices" and stop "conflicts of interest."

The Commission said it would force Google to sell off parts of its business if it wasn't satisfied with the company's proposed remedies.

Google's changes include giving publishers more pricing options on its ad management platform.

To address conflicts of interest, the company is modifying its ad tools to give publishers and advertisers more choice and flexibility.

"We will now analyse Google's proposed measures to assess whether they effectively bring the self-preferencing practices to an end and address the situation of inherent conflicts of interest," the Commission said in a statement. **AP**

465 mln euros in damages

Google must pay the German price comparison platform Idealo approximately 465 million euros ($542 million) in damages for market abuse, a Berlin court has ruled.

The court found that Google had abused its dominant market position in two case decisions and ordered the U.S. technology giant to pay damages, both rulings can be appealed, a court spokesperson told Reuters.

In addition to Idealo, the company behind another German price comparison site, Producto, will also be awarded 107 million euros.

Following the rulings, Idealo – a subsidiary of the German media group Axel Springer – said that it would continue its legal action against Google.

"We will continue to fight – because market abuse must have consequences and must not become a lucrative business model that pays off despite fines and damages payments," said Idealo co-founder Albrecht von Sonntag.

Idealo had demanded 3.3 billion euros, including interest, from Google. The company accused the search engine operator of abusing its market for price comparisons between 2008 and 2023. **Reuters**

CSIR-ISRO space meet to advance India's human spaceflight research

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will organise a joint space meet in Bengaluru next week to advance cooperation on human spaceflight research, microgravity studies and space technology innovations, an official statement said on Friday.

The event on Monday (November 17) is expected to draw 150 to 200 delegates, including scientists, technologists, astronauts and representatives from national and international organisations.

Dignitaries will include Consul General of France in Bengaluru, officials from DRDO, ISRO, IISc, IAF, and experts from the European Space Agency (ESA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the French Space Agency (CNES).

The CSIR–ISRO Space Meet 2025 will focus on integrating CSIR's multidisciplinary research with ISRO's mission-driven technological needs, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Sessions at the event will cover

collaboration in human spaceflight physiology, biomedical instrumentation, materials science, life sciences in microgravity and advanced systems for spacecraft maintenance, the release noted.

Discussions will explore growth of plants in space, development of space food, microfluidics, ceramic metamaterials, and microbial corrosion prevention.

Through this event, India's premier institutes plan to build stronger research linkages across scientific institutions and foster innovation in space medicine, human factors engineering, and translational technologies for societal benefit. **IANS**

BITS & BYTES

PRIVACY RULES KICK IN

India put new privacy rules into force on Friday that will make Meta, Google, OpenAI and other companies minimize collection of personal data and give people more control over their information. The rules, akin to the broader goals of the European Union's landmark GDPR privacy law, come as countries are scrambling to safeguard personal data with the rising adoption of AI.

Companies will only be able to collect data that is necessary for a specified purpose under the rules, which will enforce India's stringent 2023 Digital Personal Data Protection law. **Reuters**

AI DATA CENTRE IN AP

Reliance Industries plans to set up a 1-gigawatt AI data center in India's Andhra Pradesh, the state's chief minister said on Friday, adding to infrastructure capacity in India where the likes of Google and Microsoft have made huge AI investments.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu did not disclose financial details of the investment. Reliance did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

India is a critical growth market where nearly a billion users access the internet. Google last month committed to a $15 billion investment over five years to create an AI data center in Andhra Pradesh, its biggest ever investment in India. **Reuters**

BITCOIN SLIDES

Bitcoin traded below $96,000 for the first time in over six months on Friday, as a sell-off in risky assets accelerated on fading expectations for a December rate cut from the U.S. Federal Reserve. It was last down 2.8% at $96,009, having earlier dropped as low as $95,885.33, its lowest since May 7.

The largest cryptocurrency by market cap was on track for its third straight weekly fall and is down almost 24% from its peak in early October.

Risky assets have come under pressure in recent days as expectations of a rate cut from the Fed next month have shrunk as a growing number of policymakers signal reticence on further easing. **Reuters**

HEALTH TIP: Thyme contains an antispasmodic compound that can help relax the muscles of the throat if you have dry cough

Begin your mornings with a handful of nuts to support metabolism and prevent binge eating

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Under attack from our own

There are more than 100 autoimmune diseases, and they mostly strike women. Here's what to know

Our immune system has a dark side: It's supposed to fight off invaders to keep us healthy. But sometimes it turns traitor and attacks our own cells and tissues.

What are called autoimmune diseases can affect just about every part of the body – and tens of millions of people. While most common in women, these diseases can strike anyone, adults or children, and they're on the rise.

New research is raising the prospect of treatments that might do more than tamp down symptoms. Dozens of clinical trials are testing ways to reprogram an immune system-gone-rogue, with some promising early successes against lupus, myositis and certain other illnesses. Other researchers are hunting ways to at least delay brewing autoimmune diseases, spurred by a drug that can buy some time before people show symptoms of Type 1 diabetes.

"This is probably the most exciting time that we've ever had to be in autoimmunity," said Dr. Amit Saxena, a rheumatologist at NYU Langone Health.

Here are some things to know.

They're chronic diseases that can range from mild to life-threatening, more than 100 with different names depending on how and where they do damage. Rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis attack joints. Sjögren's disease is known for dry eyes and mouth. Myositis and myasthenia gravis weaken muscles in different ways, the latter by attacking how nerves signal them. Lupus has widely varied symptoms including a butterfly-shaped facial rash, joint and muscle pain, fevers and damage to the kidneys, lungs and heart.

They're also capricious: Even patients faring well for long periods can suddenly have a "flare" for no apparent reason.

Many start with vague symptoms that come and go or mimic other illnesses. Many also have overlapping symptoms – rheumatoid arthritis and Sjögren's also can harm major organs, for example.

Diagnosis can take multiple tests, including some blood tests to detect antibodies that mistakenly latch onto healthy tissue. It usually centers on symptoms and involves ruling out other causes. Depending on the disease it can take years and seeing multiple doctors before one puts the clues together. There are efforts to improve: The National MS Society is educating doctors about newly updated guidelines to streamline diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

The human immune system is a complex army with sentinels to detect threats like germs or cancer cells, a variety of soldiers to attack them, and peacemakers to calm things down once the danger is over. Key is that it can distinguish what's foreign from what's "you," what scientists call tolerance.

Sometimes confused immune cells or antibodies slip through, or the peacemakers can't calm things down after a battle. If the system can't spot and fix the problem, autoimmune diseases gradually develop.

Most autoimmune diseases, especially in adults, aren't caused by a specific gene defect. Instead, a variety of genes that affect immune functions can make people susceptible. Scientists say it then takes some "environmental" trigger, such as an infection, smoking or pollutants, to set the disease into motion. For example, the Epstein-Barr virus is linked to MS.

Scientists are zeroing in on the earliest molecular triggers. For example, white blood cells called neutrophils are first responders to signs of infection or injury — but abnormally overactive ones are suspected of playing a key role in lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases.

Women account for about 4 of 5 autoimmune patients, many of them young. Hormones are thought to play a role. But also, females have two X chromosomes while males have one X and one Y. Some research suggests an abnormality in how female cells switch off that extra X can increase women's vulnerability.

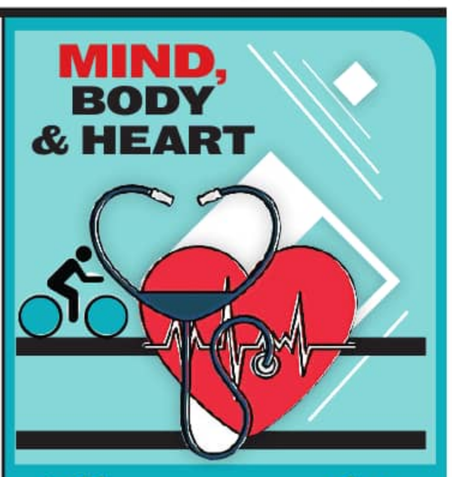
But men do suffer from autoimmune diseases. One especially severe one named VEXAS syndrome wasn't discovered until 2020. It mainly affects men over 50 and in addition to typical autoimmune symptoms it can cause blood clots, shortness of breath and night sweats.

Certain populations also have higher risks. For example, lupus is more common in Black and Hispanic women. Northern Europeans have a higher risk of MS than other groups.

According to investment research company Morningstar, the global market for autoimmune disease treatments is $100 billion a year. That's not counting doctor visits and such things as lost time at work. Treatment is lifelong and, while usually covered by insurance, can be pricey.

Not so long ago there was little to offer for many autoimmune diseases beyond high-dose steroids and broad immune-suppressing drugs, with side effects that include a risk of infections and cancer. Today some newer options target specific molecules, somewhat less immune dampening. But for many autoimmune diseases, treatment is trial and error, with little to guide patient decisions.

—AP



All you need to know about...

Food for good mood

Dark Chocolate
When it comes to instant mood lifters, dark chocolate tops the list. It's rich in antioxidants, specifically flavonoids, which improve blood flow to the brain and enhance feelings of calmness.
The small amount of caffeine and the amino acid tryptophan help in the production of serotonin which is the happiness hormone.

Bananas
Bananas are often called nature's mood-boosting snack. They're packed with vitamin B6, which helps in the synthesis of dopamine and serotonin, chemicals that regulate emotions.
The natural sugars and fiber provide steady energy, preventing mood swings caused by low blood sugar.

Yogurt
Yogurt, especially the probiotic-rich kind, is a great food for both gut and mental health. A healthy gut means a healthy mind, thanks to the gut-brain connection. The probiotics in yogurt promote the growth of good bacteria in your digestive system, which in turn boosts serotonin production.

Nuts and Seeds
Nuts like almonds, walnuts and seeds such as chia or flax are packed with omega-3 fatty acids and magnesium, both known for their mood-stabilizing properties. These healthy fats nourish brain cells and promote emotional well-being.

Green Tea
Green tea is not just a soothing drink, it's a gentle mood enhancer. The amino acid L-theanine found in green tea helps promote relaxation and alertness at the same time, creating a balanced mental state. It's the perfect drink for those moments when you need to feel calm yet focused.

Fatty Fish
Salmon, mackerel and sardines are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which are crucial for brain health and emotional stability. These fatty acids help regulate neurotransmitters responsible for mood control, such as serotonin and dopamine.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Prevalence of hypertension in children, teens doubled in last two decades: Study

Prevalence of hypertension or high blood pressure among children and teenagers has nearly doubled in the last two decades, from 3.2 per cent in 2000 to over six per cent in 2020, according to a global analysis published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health journal.

Left unaddressed, hypertension can lead to cardiovascular and kidney disease.

Estimates also suggest that nearly a fifth of the world's children and adolescents with obesity have hypertension -- about eight times the prevalence among those having a healthy weight (2.4 per cent), researchers including those from the UK's University of Edinburgh said.

The findings suggest obesity is a substantial driver of the increase in childhood hypertension. Obesity tends to cause other issues, such as insulin resistance and changes in blood vessels, which can make it harder to maintain a healthy blood pressure.

Further, eight per cent of children and teenagers around the world may be having pre-hypertension, which is a warning sign of hypertension, the study found.

"The nearly twofold increase in childhood high blood pressure over 20 years should raise alarm bells for healthcare providers and caregivers," said study author Igor Rudan, director of the centre for global health research at The Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh (UK).

"But the good news is that we can take steps now, such as improving screening and prevention efforts, to help control high blood pressure in children and reduce the risks of additional health complications in the future," Rudan said.

The meta-analysis looked at data from 96 previously published studies, involving more than 443,000 children and across 21 countries.

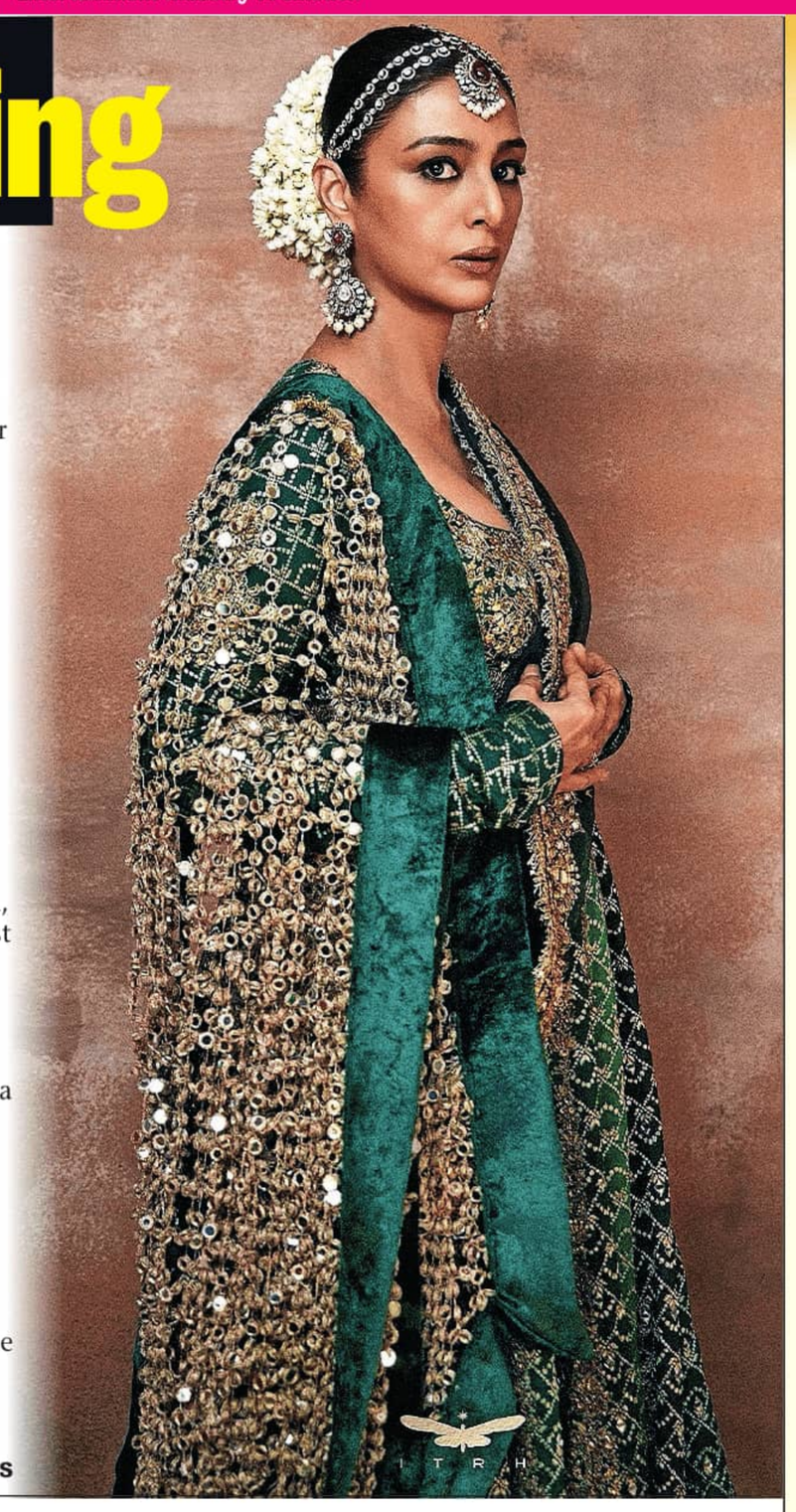
"Between 2000 and 2020, the prevalence of childhood hypertension nearly doubled, increasing from 3.40 per cent to 6.53 per cent in boys and from 3.02 per cent to 5.82 per cent in girls," the authors wrote.

The study also found that more than nine per cent of children and adolescents the world over may have masked hypertension -- which is high blood pressure that only shows up in out-of-office tests and therefore could be undetected during regular checkups.

—PTI

Good timing

Tabu says she wouldn't think of entering movies at this point in time



Tabu has long been celebrated as one of Bollywood's most powerful and graceful performers. But if she had to start her career in today's Gen Z era, would she still choose to become an actor?

After walking the ramp for a famous designer duo, Tabu spoke to Diet Sabya in a brief but revealing chat. When asked whether she would debut as a Gen Z actor today, Tabu laughed before replying, "I don't think I'll be entering the movies now. I'm happy I did when I did it."

At the fashion show, Tabu made a striking appearance in black trousers, a black cowl-neck tunic and a long black coat decorated with silver hand embroidery and sparkling crystals. The elegant outfit perfectly matched her calm and confident presence. The audience responded with loud cheers. Seen in the crowd were Jaya Bachchan, Neetu Kapoor and Soni Razdan. One of the sweetest moments came when Jaya Bachchan clapped excitedly and blew flying kisses at Tabu as she walked. Their warm exchange quickly melted hearts on social media.

Tabu began working in films when she was still a teenager. She first appeared in Dev Anand's 'Hum Naujawan' in 1985 and soon bagged her first lead role in the Telugu film 'Coolie No. 1'. Her Bollywood debut came with 'Pehla Pehla Pyar' opposite Rishi Kapoor.

Her rise continued with films like 'Vijaypath', 'Jeet' and 'Haqeeqat', which made her a familiar name across the country. In 1996, she delivered one of her most acclaimed performances in 'Maachis', where she played a young woman affected by the Punjab insurgency. The role earned her the National Award for Best Actress. **—ETimes**

Knot a love story

Love OTP (Over Torture Pressure) is Aniissh Tejeshwar's second film as a director. He plays the lead in this romantic comedy with aplomb too. The movie has a bit of all elements such as action, sentiments, and comedy. The condition of the hero, sandwiched between two lovers, is fun to watch. As if that were not enough, the hero has to cope with his father who is not only strict but also against love. The director-cum-hero must be appreciated for his skills in direction and acting. Rajeev Kanakala's dialogues are laugh out loud funny.

The movie begins with Sana (Swaroopini) creating a ruckus and fainting while her lover Akshay (Aniissh Tejeshwar) takes to his heels. The director introduces a flashback narrating how Sana falls in love with Akshay and how they dated for a few years. Sana becomes possessive and doubts him about everything. Meanwhile, Akshay is injured while playing cricket. Nakshatra (Jahnvika Kalkeri), a physiotherapist, helps Akshay. Smitten by Nakshatra's beauty, he falls in love with her. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Sana.

Tejeshwar is at his best especially in action and comedy scenes. As a director, he deserves appreciation for making an out and out romantic comedy with just a handful of actors.

Swaroopini, who is known for Drishya and Mast Kalandar, is convincing as a possessive lover with 'obsessive love disorder'. Jahnika Kalakeri has acted well. Kanakala, as a police inspector who is against love marriages, is at his best. Natya Ranga, as a sidekick of the hero, is also funny. Tulasi Shivamani plays a different role that has two shades.

The movie is worth a watch for family audiences.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

LOVE OTP

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Aniissh Tejeshwar
- **ACTORS** Aniissh Tejeshwar, Swaroopini, Jahnvika Kalakeri, Rajeev Kanakala, Tulasi Shivamani
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 140 minutes

Chadwick Boseman on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Late actor Chadwick Boseman will be honoured with a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame five years after his demise, reported People. The actor passed away at 43.

The ceremony will take place on November 20. Ryan Coogler, who directed Boseman in Black Panther, and Viola Davis, who costarred with Boseman in Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, will speak at the ceremony, reported People. Boseman's wife, Simone Ledward-Boseman, is set to accept the honour at the ceremony.

According to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Boseman's star will be located at 6904 Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles. "The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce is honoured to celebrate Chadwick Boseman's extraordinary legacy with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. His powerful performances and enduring impact continue to inspire generations around the world," said Ana Martinez, Hollywood Walk of Fame producer, in a statement. **—ANI**

Natural chemistry

Bollywood's power couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone have a chemistry that simply never fades, be it on screen or off it.

From fiery romances like 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela' to powerful dramas like 'Bajirao Mastani', every time they appear together, something electric sparks to life. Now, Ranveer has opened up about what makes working with Deepika so special and why audiences still adore them as a pair. Speaking to Hindustan Times, the 'Gully Boy' actor shared how much he enjoys collaborating with Padukone. "I love working with Deepika. Our on-screen chemistry is so natural," he said.Singh continued, "There's an authenticity there that's priceless. That really resonates with the audience."

When asked about a favourite memory from their films, he admitted he could never pick just one. "I can't pick any one moment. There have been many special moments. The best part is we have only scratched the surface. There's still so much more to do."

Singh also spoke about how different he and Padukone are when it comes to travelling. "When it was just me, the vibe was definitely playful and just really full-throttle hype mode," he said, describing his usual high energy travel style. Deepika, according to him, brings calmness and elegance, "But with Deepika, there's a grounding presence. She brings grace and poise that complements my energy... Together, we reflect two different traveller types and find interesting things to do in the city - as a couple." **—ETimes**

Ambassador for social change

National Award-winning actor Keerthy Suresh has been chosen as a Celebrity Advocate, marking a new chapter in her journey of using her voice for meaningful social causes. Keerthy has built a strong connection with audiences through her thoughtful performances and her commitment to stories that highlight gender equality, empowerment, and social change. This new role gives her an even larger platform to speak up for children and young people.

Keerthy has often portrayed women who challenge social barriers, and her career choices reflect her belief in fairness and equal opportunity. Now, she will focus on issues that are close to her heart, such as mental health, education, and gender equality.

Cynthia McCaffrey, Representative of UNICEF India, said, "Her profound connection with audiences provides a powerful and inspiring platform to advocate for children's rights and well-being... she brings passion and influence to our shared mission to reach every child."

Keerthy, expressing her gratitude, added, "Children are our greatest responsibility and our greatest hope... I am honoured to join hands with UNICEF India..." **— ETimes**

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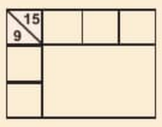
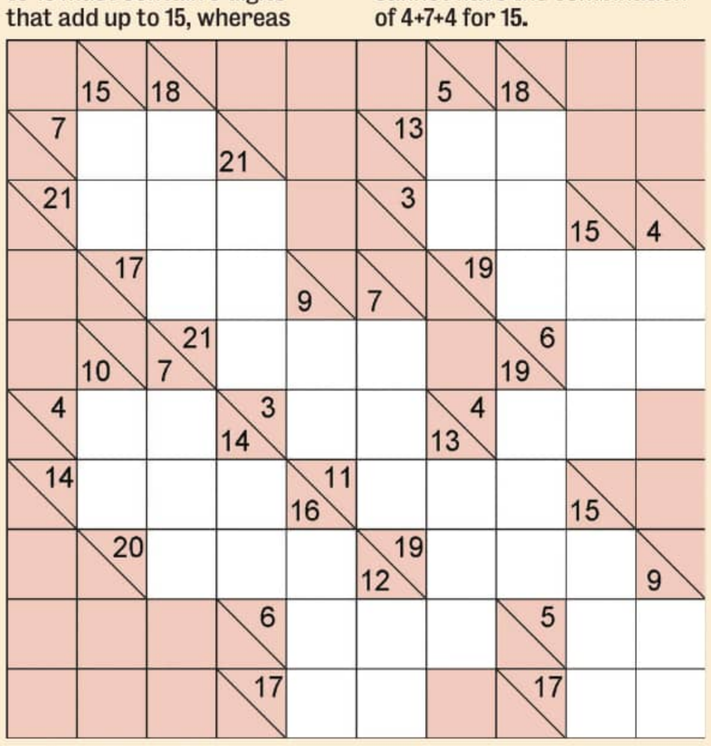
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

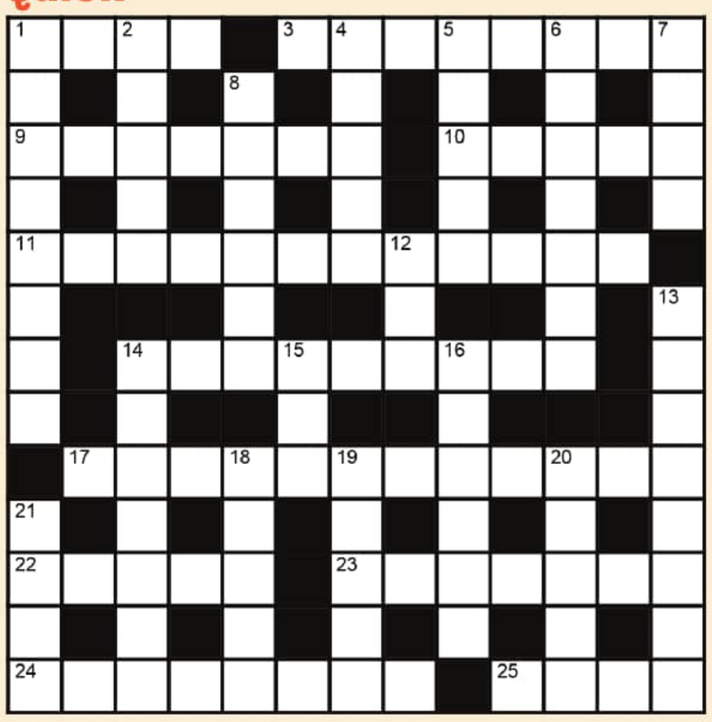
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Cleaning implements (4)
3 Revolt, rebellion or mutiny (8)
9 An aquatic mammal (7)
10 Owing money? (2,3)
11 Examined unknown values (12)
14 River that crosses paths with the South Pennar river at Nandi Hills (9)
17 The runners take off from here? (8,4)
22 Coral isle (5)
23 A single pace (3,4)
24 Precedent trial (4-4)
25 Interlacing network (4)

DOWN

1 Simplified or clarified (4,4)
2 Aircraft captain (5)
4 Piebald horse (5)
5 Mediterranean isle (5)
6 Native of Nazareth (7)
7 Dwellers of Mount Olympus? (4)
8 Grew less or diminished (6)
12 Open land (3)
13 Shameless audacity (8)
14 Deeds (7)
15 Part of a play (3)
16 Pulled hard and violently (6)
18 Ancient souvenir (5)
19 Desktop symbols (5)
20 __ __ dot : very promptly? (2,3)
21 Have a fit (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS U

EG MZR KPWD DZ NPDNI VZJQ GELI, RLQ VZJQ IZZHL.

Linemaro

Are you butt dialing? Because I swear that ass is calling me.

Mind chow

Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example

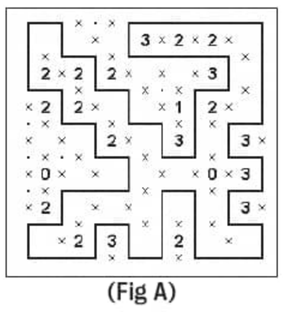
Joke of the day

Police inspector: Have you caught the thief? Constable: No, but I found some trace of him. Police inspector: What? Constable: Fingerprints Police inspector: Where? Constable: On my cheeks.

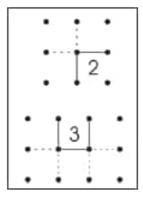
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

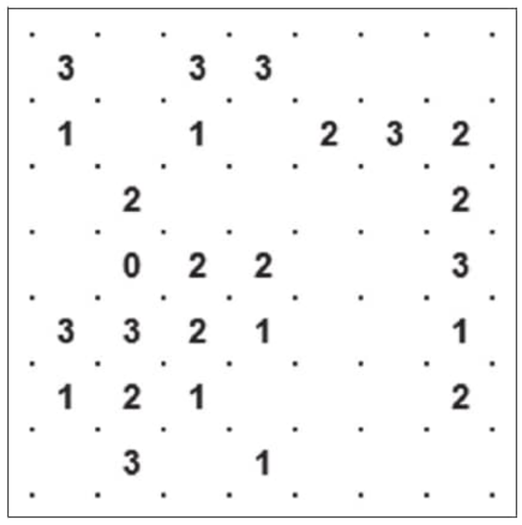


(Fig B) Not Allowed

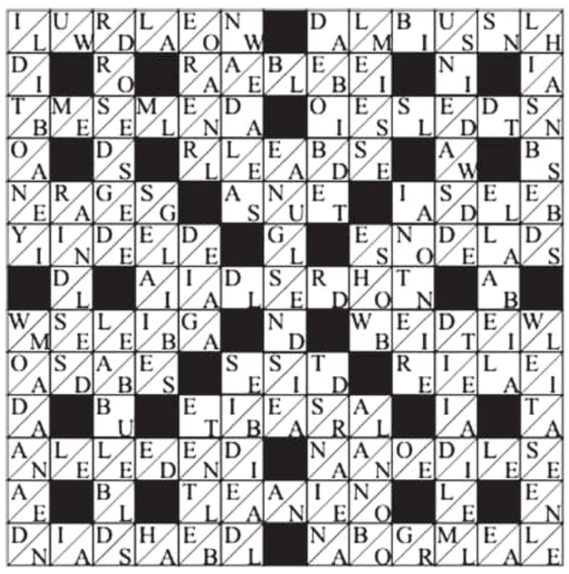
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



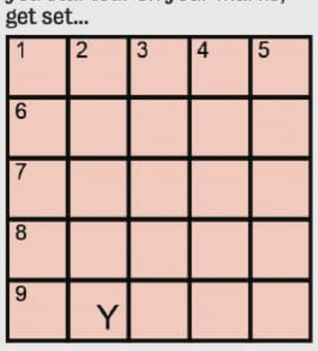
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

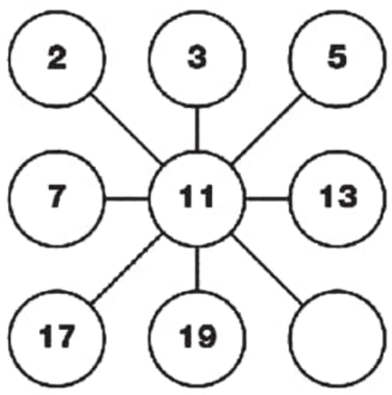
1 Harms; 6 At ire; 7 Aired; 8 Sites; 9 Mopey

DOWN

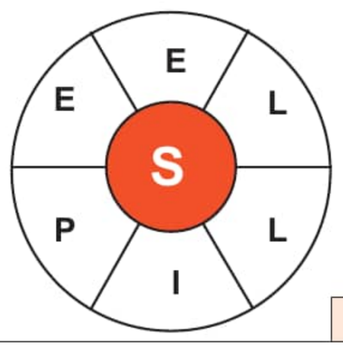
1 Sim ma; 2 Ray it; 3 Or aid; 4 Stepe; 5 Sheer

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1	9			6			8	
	5	8			2	4		
6			3			2		
							7	
4			2		1			3
	2							
		5			9			4
		3	8			7	5	
	7			5			3	8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

2 6 6 8

Medium = 17

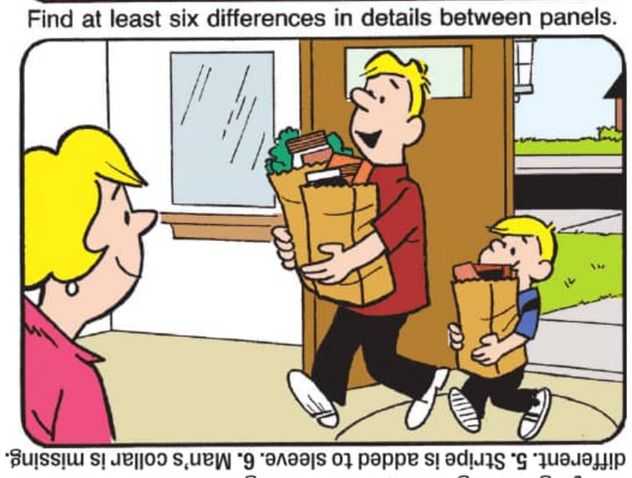
4 5 6 9

Hard = 10

3 4 4 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



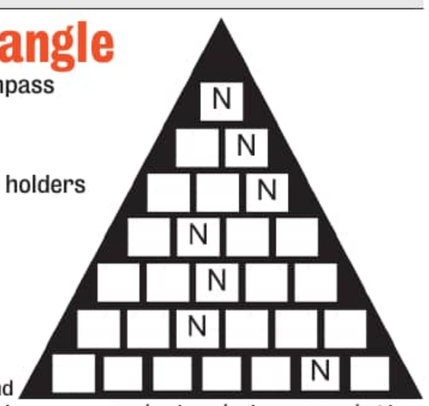
Differences: 1. Line in sidewalk is missing. 2. Boy is only carrying one bag. 3. Man's shirt is longer. 4. Woman's collar is different. 5. Stripe is added to sleeve. 6. Man's collar is missing.

Riddler

You are given five words and five definitions. Each of the words can be anagrammed into a two word phrase that fits one of the definitions. Your task is to assign each definition to its corresponding word. Words: absolute, boomerang, porcelain, stadium, submarine Definitions: a stack of nuts an angry tuxedo an unruly crowd of citrus fruit not a different bear to misplace a musical instrument

Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Not off
3 Debate side
4 Formerly
5 Edible ice-cream holders
6 Paddle boats
7 Warning signals

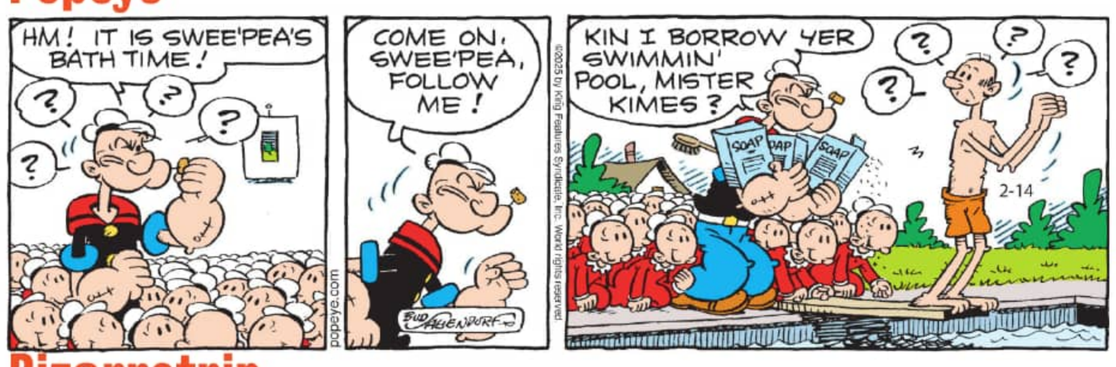


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

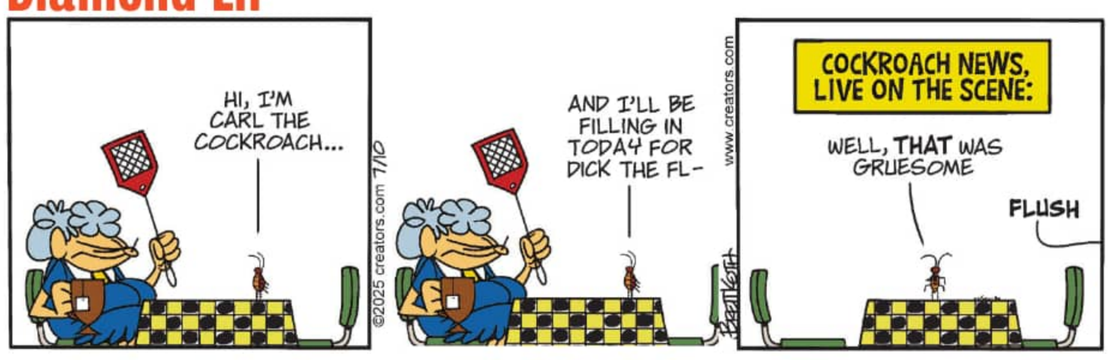
COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil


HI, I'M CARL THE COCKROACH...
AND I'LL BE FILLING IN TODAY FOR DICK THE FL-
COCKROACH NEWS, LIVE ON THE SCENE:
WELL, THAT WAS GRUESOME
FLUSH
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Hart of the city

WE'RE READY TO START JULIET AUDITIONS!
AUDITION
'TIS BUT THY NAME THAT IS... MY... UH... LINE?
WHAT'S IN A NAME? THAT WHICH WE CALL A ROSE BY ANY NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET?!
COME VIAL. WHAT IF THIS MIXTURE DOES NOT WORK AT ALL? SHALL I BE MARRIED, THEN, TOMORROW MORNING? NO, NO: THIS SHALL FORBID IT.
SHE'S CRUSHING IT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

MAYBE THIS IS THE RESTROOM!
8-6
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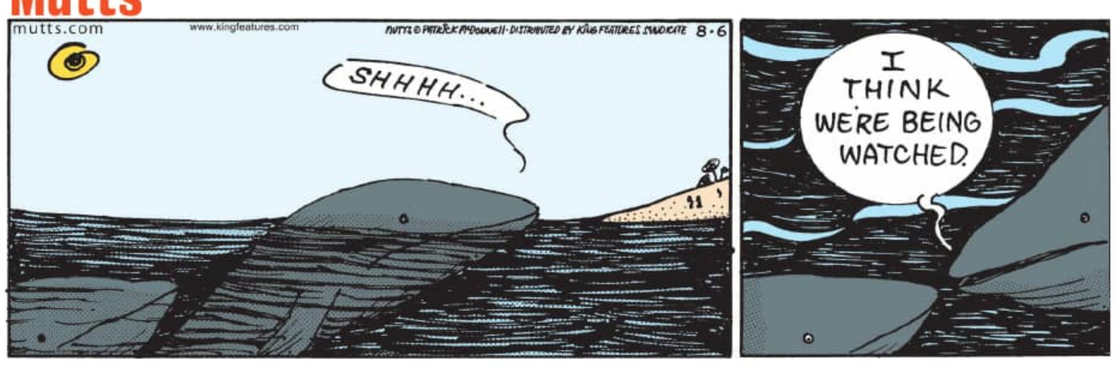
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your large social circle expands dramatically, bringing valuable new career contacts and smart financial advice. Love is light-hearted and incredibly fun; fully enjoy the present moment together. Family relationships are easy-going and highly supportive of your goals. This is a year for exploration, trying new things, and embracing personal freedom.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Life offers solutions; act when stuck, release fears and limiting beliefs. If lonely, ask for help; the universe supplies. Pause beneath a tree, breathe deeply, and connect with cosmic wisdom gracefully.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Reflect on spirituality and suffering; remember you're source embodied, co-creating reality through thought. Honour elders, express gratitude, and trust fortune's favour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Stop overthinking and welcome magic. Your efforts combined with luck bring progress. Choosing battles wisely improves relationships. Today, savour deserved rewards, accept success gracefully.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Focus today; you can achieve much through connection, partnership, love, and insight. Reflect on deeper goals, prioritise love, choose the high road, and align actions with heartfelt intentions for growth.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Growth follows hardship; release past burdens. Centre on present values and take practical steps toward alignment. Trust angels to guide outcomes while you move bravely toward integrity and heartfelt healing today.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Diligent efforts yield progress in relationships, work, and finances. Reconnect with an old friend, acknowledge emotions, and welcome cosmic support. You're not stuck; this pause readies you for renewed balanced momentum.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Intuition strengthens; avoid overloading yourself with uncontrollable worries. Let inner wisdom illuminate choices and decide from love rather than fear.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Conscious and subconscious align to manifest desires. Seek meaning by deepening self-connection. Release outdated beliefs now to invite love, security, and fresh opportunity.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may feel beginnings uncertain, but answers approach soon. Expansion is imminent; be brave, assertive, and patient. Hold thoughts until clarity arrives, then act decisively on promising personal or professional opportunities.

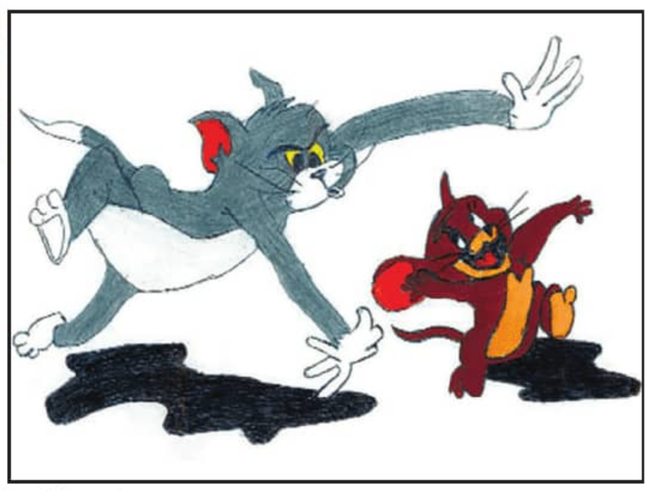
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Loneliness can be soothed by purposeful passion projects. Learn, create meaning, and welcome support from loved ones. Allow inner desires gently to surface and intentionally shape the life you seek.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Stop waiting in limbo; refine plans and commit to action or walk away. Trust instincts but don't be paralysed by fear. Decide with clarity to unlock forward momentum and purposeful direction.

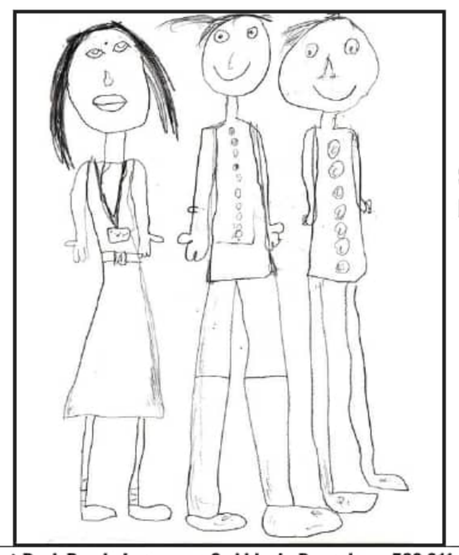
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Opportunities accelerate; approach choices from fresh angles. Pressure to decide may feel intense; use critical thinking to weigh pros and cons wisely. Embrace new ideas and proceed with considered confidence now.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



David, Bengaluru



Shagun, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(3√10+2√10) / (10√10)
(5√10) / (10√10) = 1/2

RIDDLER
absolute: to misplace a musical instrument (close tuba), boomerang: an unruly crowd of citrus fruit (orange mob), porcelain: a stack of nuts (acorn pile), stadium: an angry tuxedo (madsuit), submarine: not a different bear (same brurin)

BULL'S EYE
ELLIPSE, else, isle, lisp, seep, sell, sill, sleep, slip, spell, spill

FAST FIVE

M	A	R	S	H
A	I	D	E	R
I	R	A	T	E
S	T	I	E	S
M	Y	O	P	E

STRIKE OUT

L	U	D	L	O	W	■	A	M	B	U	S	H		
I	R	A	B	B	I	■	N	A	L	■	I			
T	E	E	M	E	D	■	I	S	L	E	T	S		
A	■	D	■	L	E	E	D	S	■	A	S	■		
N	A	G	S	■	S	U	E	■	I	S	L	E		
Y	I	E	L	D	■	G	■	S	N	E	A	D		
M	E	L	B	A	■	N	■	B	E	D	E	W		
O	D	A	S	■	S	I	D	■	R	I	L	E		
N	E	E	D	E	D	■	A	N	O	D	E	S		
A	■	B	■	T	I	A	R	A	■	A	■	A		
D	A	S	H	E	D	■	N	O	R	M	A	L		

QUICK

T	E	S	T	C	A	S	E	■	M	E	S	H		
N	■	N	■	I	■	N	■	D	■	H	■	A		
A	T	O	L	L	■	O	N	E	S	T	E	P		
R	■	I	■	E	■	C	■	G	■	N	■	Z		
S	T	A	R	T	I	N	G	P	O	S	T	■		
Y	■	C	■	■	C	■	■	U	■	■	■	U		
S	■	A	R	K	A	V	A	T	H	I	■	H		
A	■	■	■	N	■	■	E	■	■	L	■	C		
E	X	T	R	A	P	O	L	A	T	E	D	■		
E	■	O	■	R	■	T	■	Z	■	A	■	S		
D	O	L	P	H	I	N	■	I	N	R	E	D		
A	■	I	■	S	■	I	B	■	S	■	■	O		
M	O	P	S	■	U	P	R	I	S	I	N	G		

MENSA PUZZLE
23. Moving across each row, from top to bottom, the numbers follow the sequence of prime numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE
If you want to catch more fish, use more hooks.

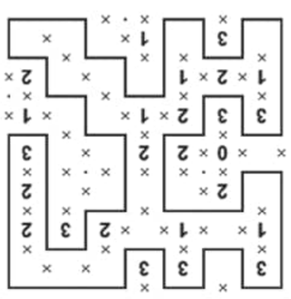
SUDOKU

1	9	2	4	6	7	3	8	5
3	5	8	9	1	2	4	6	7
6	4	7	3	8	5	2	1	9
5	3	9	6	4	8	1	7	2
4	8	6	2	7	1	5	9	3
7	2	1	5	9	3	8	4	6
8	1	5	7	3	9	6	2	4
9	6	3	8	2	4	7	5	1
2	7	4	1	5	6	9	3	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, On, Con, Once, Cones, Canoes, Beacons.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 8 − 6 + 6 = 10
Medium
5 x 4 + 6 − 9 = 17
Hard
4 \ 4 + 3 + 6 = 10

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # The Super Mario Galaxy expands
The makers have released the trailer for 'The Super Mario Galaxy Movie', the sequel to the super hit 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'; the film will hit theatres in April 2026

Ranbir's 'finsta' account

Ranbir Kapoor may be one of Bollywood's biggest stars, but when it comes to social media, he's low-key, and almost mysterious. However, during a recent interaction in Dubai, the 'Animal' actor made a revelation that left fans both surprised.

The actor admitted that he secretly runs an Instagram account, a 'fake' one, where he quietly scrolls, follows, and even posts! The 'Rockstar' actor confessed that he has what he calls a "finsta", a fake Instagram account that he uses to browse content and follow people he finds inspiring. In his typical witty way, the 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' actor said, "Not officially on Instagram. I do have a… what's that word? It's called a… Finsta. Finsta. Which is a fake Insta account."

He went on to explain the reason behind his hidden social media presence, "You know, because there are such amazing people in the world who do such amazing inspiration stuff. So I do want to follow them. But because I'm an actor, I didn't want to officially be on Instagram. Then I have a responsibility to really show myself off to the world. And I feel that I already have a medium, which is 'acting' and 'movies' and that's enough for me to show.

While fans were still processing the fact that the 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil' actor has a secret account, he dropped an even bigger surprise. The 'Sanju' actor revealed that he has posted a reel with his daughter, Raha Kapoor, on this hidden profile. "And on the Finsta account, I did make a reel with my daughter. But I have no followers," Ranbir said casually, leaving everyone shocked at the thought of a mystery Raha reel existing online.

—ETimes

FRUITS OF HARD WORK

Kalyani talks about the greatest thing she picked up from her father's work ethic

After the record-breaking success of Lokah: Chapter 1 - Chandra, Kalyani Priyadarshan is being celebrated as one of the most consistent actors in the Malayalam film industry. In the midst of the praise, Kalyani took a moment to reflect on the most valuable lesson she inherited from her father, the legendary filmmaker Priyadarshan - an unshakable work ethic.

"What I picked up from him is his work ethic and his professionalism," Kalyani shared. "All my life, I've just seen him work. He gives his all, even to this day. He doesn't need to; he's older now, and his body isn't as strong as it used to be. But even now, I've seen him shoot crazy hours or shoot in the rain." She recalled moments from her childhood that left a lasting impression on her. "I've seen him with a hundred-and-something-degree fever, drinking hot tea, shivering, holding a mic, and still saying 'action.' I've seen him running around at 10.30 at night trying to figure things out on a set. This is the man I grew up watching," she said.

For Kalyani, witnessing that level of commitment shaped her own attitude toward work. "Somewhere along the way, that became a part of me too," she said. "Anyone who has worked with me ,they can say a hundred things about me, but one thing I'll never allow them to say is that I'm lazy. I'm sure everyone who's worked with me will say that I'm hardworking, and I get that from my father."

—Jigar Shah, ETimes

When politics, land mafia and vengeance collide

Roopesh Shetty, popular as a Bigg Boss winner, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. Roopesh also plays the lead in the film that sheds light on lack of medical infrastructure in rural areas of Coastal Karnataka. As a director and the lead, he has succeeded in meeting the expectations of mass audiences, especially his fans. He ensured all ingredients such as comedy, action, romance, sentiment, sports, and violence to cater to the needs of all types of audiences.

The movie also throws light on how politicians use fake currency notes and illicit liquor to defame their opponents. Instead of focusing on devotion and superstition, it aptly shows how kabaddi is popular among people in Coastal Karnataka. If the director had reduced the movie's runtime by 20 minutes by removing a prison scene, it would have been a better entertainer. If the scene were removed, Suniel Shetty's special appearance would have got a boost too.

The movie is about Simhabettu that has no medical and infrastructure facilities. Sathya (Roopesh Shetty) is a staunch follower of MLA Vishwanath (Raj Deepak Shetty). Many people of Simhabettu die due to lack of medical facilities. They want the MLA to construct a bridge on the river to connect Simhabettu to a nearby city. Sathya's mother dies due to a heart attack as his relatives could not take her to the hospital on time. Sathya requests MLA Vishwanath to build a bridge on the river but the latter has other ideas. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Sathya and why Suniel Shetty has to visit Simhabettu. Roopesh has acted well. Suniel Shetty's cameo adds value to the movie. Raj Deepak Shetty is convincing as a vicious villain. Devadas Kapikad, as a politician who gets defeated six times, Aravind Bolar, as an ambulance owner, are funny. Adhvithi Shetty makes her presence felt. Naveen D Padil and Bhojaraj Vamanjoor are good support.

The movie is worth a watch for all, especially for Roopesh Shetty's fans.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

JAI
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Roopesh Shetty
- **ACTORS** Roopesh Shetty, Suniel Shetty, Advaithi Shetty, Raj Deepak Shetty, Aravind Bolar
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 165 minutes

A tale of willpower, dedication & good intention

Director Viren Sagar Bagade has selected a good subject for this movie that not only entertains, but also has a message. The films exposes the lack of basic amenities such as toilets and school buildings and delays in renovating school buildings in dilapidated conditions, and roads in rural areas, especially in North Karnataka. The importance of education and Gandhian principles and the menace of untouchability also comes through.

The movie also shows that migrating from North Karnataka to cities for livelihood or for a luxurious life is not always a good idea. The movie emphasises on hard work and education.

The story begins with a person (Prabhu Hanchinal) listening to Sanskrit news on the radio without knowing the language. His son Hanumantha (Samarth Aashi) asks him to take him to school on his bicycle. On the way, Hanumantha sees two groups of students flying kites. He meets Srirama (Praneel Nadigir), a student of an English Medium School.

Meanwhile, the Kannada Primary School building where Hanumantha studies collapses due to heavy rain. The teacher tries his best to get funds to rebuild it but doesn't succeed. Srirama decides to help Hanumantha by participating in a kite flying competition.

The movie was made more than five years ago. A majority of the actors, especially children, have done a good job. The movie also showcases Sabarmati Ashram.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch for families.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

KITE BROTHERS
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Viren Sagar Bagade
- **ACTORS** Praneel Nadgir, Samarth Aashi, Vinod Bagade, Ananth Deshpande, Prabhu Hanchinal Rajiv Singh
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 148 minutes